SOME NEW BOOKS.

A Remarkable Survey of the Myths of the Oceanic Peoples.

Third to appear of the thirteen volumes in the series on "The Mythology of All Races" (Marshall Jones Company, Boston) Volume IX., *Oceanic*, by ROLAND B. DIXON, professor of anthropology in Harvard University, systematizes the myths of Polynesia, Melanesia, Indonesia, Micronesia and Australia. Professor Dixon's volume differs from the two that have preceded it in that the legends of these island peoples are materials of history. They are a means of tracing undated migrations and racial contacts:

The origin, evolution and affiliation of the various peoples of Oceania is a problem whose complexity becomes more and more apparent with increasing knowledge. While anthropologists are still far from satisfactorily explaining these matters, it is patent to all that the ethnic history of the region involves the recognition of a series of waves of migration from the westward, each spreading itself more or less completely over its predecessors, modifying them and in turn modified by them, until the result is a complex web the unravelling of which leads us inevitably back to the Asiatic mainland. It is obvious that, while migrations on land are not necessarily conditioned by the stage of culture of a people, in an island area, especially when the islands are separated by wide stretches of ocean, movement is impossible, or at least very difficult, for peoples who have attained only the rudiments of the art of seamanship.

In the eastern regions the difficulties were less than in the more detached islands. Some land masses now separated by water were once continuous territory. But the discoverers and settlers of the remoter isles of the Pacific must have been a race of bold and hardy adventuring voyagers. These islands were thus probably, says Prof. Dixon, "of all the occupied portions of the globe the last to be settled."

The literature of what is sometimes rather romantically called Oceania is huge and diversified, from little "popular" writings to learned and labored tomes into which has been condensed the study of scholars' lifetime. The pamphlets alone on the languages and dialects of the islanders, minute studies of the history and tricks of speech, would fill a large library. Prof. Dixon's bibliography exhibits the character of this literature, and perusal of it will convince the reader both of the comprehensiveness of the survey and of the usefulness of this work in bringing into order about a fixed standpoint all this product of specialized study. So, while the book is in a sense not "scientific," it is based upon the best knowledge in a "field" yet far from final settlement. Selected and arranged by an expert who is no slave to the mere processes of science, but eager for "human interest" results, this matter represents the "popular" style of presentation at its extreme best. The author points out that:

At present the available material is still so imperfect that all conclusions must be accepted with reserve. * * * Little, comparatively, of what has been gathered has been recorded in the language of the people themselves. Misunderstandings, conscious or unconscious coloring of statements to accord with preconceived ideas of what the people ought to think, statements made by natives who obligingly tell the investigator just what they think he wants to hear—these and other errors must be eliminated.

All these people have myths of origins and the deluge, but their cosmogony is not uniform. Polynesian myths of this type, for example, separate into two forms, one which presents a genealogical or evolutionary development of cosmos and the gods from an original chaos, and another in which man is created by deities. In the Melanesian area cosmogonic myth is least developed; in the main the earth seems to be regarded as having always existed in its present state. But even here are stories of a world covered with water, out of which a great sea serpent caused the land to arise, and of the creation of the human race out of wood or mud, divinely breathed upon, or the creator's blood. Sometimes a dove lays two eggs which hatch a man and a woman; or the ancestors of all mankind emerge from eggs of a tortoise.

In the Micronesian area various beliefs are held. The old fables are vitiated by additions from missionary teachings. In the Carolines they tell of the existence, in the beginning, of the sea and the sky. Out of the sky a great tree grew down till its branches touched the water. In its boughs was born a woman, to whom Yelofaz, a sky deity, gave sand, which she strewed upon the sea, forming the earth. In the little island of Nauru, Pleasant Island, on the equator, just west of the Gilbert group, there is telling of a time when the world was water and the only living thing was Areop-Enap, the Ancient Spider, who floated in space. Areop-Enap, coming upon a great mussel, wanted to crawl into it, but there was no opening. He struck it. It sounded hollow. Repeating a charm, he succeeded at last in prying apart the mighty valves. In he crept; but the sun and moon were not yet made, and all was dark. In the hollow he discovered a snail. Putting it under his arm, he slept three days. Power from him went into the snail. Then he found another, larger snail, which he treated in the same way as the first.

Then to the smaller creature he said: "Can you not lift the roof a little so that we may sit up?" The snail did so, and Areop-Enap set it up as the moon. The larger creature then raised the vault a little higher, and became the sun. Salty sweat from the toiling body collected in the bottom of the shell and made the sea. The top of the shell is the sky.

For Polynesia the author sets in order the "Maui cycle" and collects miscellaneous tales. In Melanesia we have added to the two classifications, "myths of origins" and "miscellaneous," the "culture hero" tales. Indonesia brings in a set of "trickster tales." Rich reading, all.

Let New Britain explain the short forelegs of the kangaroo. The kangaroo played a dirty trick on the dog, who resolved to be avenged. As they went toward the seashore the dog got on ahead and buried his forepaws in the sand. "Gracious!" he exclaimed as the kangaroo came up, "but you have long forelegs! Break off a piece of your long paws. See—I have done it to mine, and how beautiful and short they are now. You do it, and we shall both be alike." So the kangaroo broke his forelegs off short and threw the pieces away; whereupon up jumps the dog, exclaiming: "Aha! I still have long forepaws, but you have only stubs." Ever since Mr. Kangaroo has had to hop on his hinder legs.

What Uncle Remus originated the trickster tales? The ape is in Bre'r Rabbit's place. In one story he gets the worst of it, though. The ape says to the trickster, "Friend, let us stew each other." "Good," says the trickster; "let me be first." So the ape brings a piece of bamboo. "I will get inside," says the trickster, "while you collect leaves with which to pack me in tight. But while you are packing me in don't look inside the bamboo." While the ape gathers leaves the trickster crawls out and hides. The ape stuffs the hollow and starts the fire. When he thinks the meat is done he takes the vessel from the fire and goes after large leaves on which to serve his meal. The trickster, waiting for the water to cool, gets back into the vessel. When the ape returns his friend tells such a pleasing tale of his experience that the ape insists on trying it. Of course he gets cooked and eaten, the trickster paying no heed to his appeals for deliverance as the water gets hot and hotter. "Good friend, have pity on me!" cries the ape. "Well, I did not complain when you cooked me," replies the heartless trickster. But the ape appears again and again, now playing the trick and now taking the part of victim.

Australian myths show their most marked resemblance to those of Melanesia in the southern and eastern parts of the continent, both in general type and in specific details. "Only here, apparently, do we meet with such themes as the swan maiden or the arrow chain; and it is here that the animal stories are most abundant and that we find cosmogonic tales referring to the creation both of the world and of man. But little trace is found of the Melanesian dualistic ideas presented in the tales of the wise and the foolish brothers." The mythology of the central and northern parts of Australia "stands alone." Tasmania holds the key of history of early migrations. "Cultural, linguistic and physical evidence clearly shows that the present inhabitants of the continent are a mixture of this earliest stratum with at least two groups of invaders. The linguistic data have been taken to indicate that the central and northern tribes are the later of these groups and represent a Papuan wave from New Guinea, but on the basis of mythology it would seem that an alternative hypothesis is rather more in accord with the facts and that the central and northern tribes represented the earlier and presumably Papuan group, driven back into the less favorable portion of the continent by a wave of Melanesian peoples spreading from the northeast, thus repeating a process which had already taken place in Melanesia itself."

A fascinating study; and it is quite easy to forgive Prof. Dixon for not making it solemnly "scientific."

Admiral Fiske on the Navy as a Fighting Machine.

In his laudable effort to make plain to the man in the street the reasons why the United States should be prepared for defence and the necessity for taking measures immediately to secure that object Rear Admiral BRADLEY A. FISKE comes near to employing words of one syllable in *The Navy as a Fighting Machine* (Charles Scribner's Sons). He explains everything in full, no matter how familiar the facts may be to the well informed, whether they deal with the past history, the lessons of experience, on which he bases his argument in part, or in his exposition of what a navy is and should be and of the duty of the country to be prepared for emergencies that may arise. His readers may or may not agree with the conclusions he comes to; it is impossible, however, for them to fail to understand what he tells them or to blind themselves to the fact that they are listening to the words of an expert, who has made a special study of a subject that is of vital importance to them as it is to him. His patriotism and his official position prevent him from giving emphasis to the points he makes by giving examples of past blunders from which the American navy has suffered; no harm is done by this because attention is not distracted, as it might be, to matters that might arouse controversy, and because, above all, Admiral Fiske is not concerned with the past, except as it explains what should be done, but with what is needed now in preparation for the near future.

The pacifist dreams make him take the trouble to demonstrate that in the world's history the nations which have lived, as well as those which have gone under, have had to use military force, and that whenever there has been a conflict over a matter that seemed of vital importance, whether between indivduals or States, it is the power of the one strongest at the moment that has settled it. He also accepts Admiral Mahan's views that it is superior sea power that has decided the history of the world. In the case of the United States whatever serious danger threatens must come from over seas; consequently Admiral Fiske, while in no way discountenancing preparations for an adequate army, puts greater stress on the need of a navy commensurate with the greatness of the country, which shall defend it from attack, protect its commerce and enforce its views of what is right and politic.

His ingenious description of the navy as an immense and complicated mechanism, in which individual qualities, like courage and seamanship, count relatively for little, the chief factors being mechanical forces governed according to mathematical rules by a supreme intelligence in control, should convince the reader that anything like hasty preparation in case of war is impossible. His summary of the classes of commissioned and warrant officers and of the subdivisions of the crew on a modern battleship, each with specific duties that call for special training, should be a sufficient demonstration. This side of the question might have been brought home even more forcibly if the author had chosen to describe completely, even if he had to employ some technical terms, the multitude of parts that must work perfectly if a battleship is to be effective, or if he had written of the recent experience, when to send a new battleship to sea several other war vessels had to be stripped of their crews.

It is the navy as a whole—the fleet, as he calls it—as an engine for national defence that Admiral Fiske considers chiefly, and he confesses that the line between defence and offence is hard to draw. He tells us of what it should consist, what the functions of each part are, and devotes half of his book to naval strategy, the problems of the present and of the future, which the brains of the navy should study out. The examples from modern warfare that he can use are few, for he does not touch on the present war except to praise the readiness of the British navy when it was called upon, and there had been little fighting with armored steam vessels before that. As efficiency is his ideal, he can only point to Germany as an example to be followed, and show how her great navy has been built and developed in the years since the United States began to consider the matter.

From the same point of view of effectiveness he can find no better model than that of the Germans, a General Staff that is practically permanent and is steadily studying the problems the navy must meet. It is clear that he also admires the manner in which respect for the decisions and estimates of that directing body is enforced on the legislative body, and it may be inferred that he deprecates the tampering with the results of the mature deliberations of technical experts by Congressional committees and civilian heads of departments who are mere politicians. Admiral Fiske's book should be read by every American and carefully thought over after reading.

MACNEILL'S SERVICES TO CELTIC LITERATURE.

Plea for a Scholar Now Under Penal Sentence in Ireland.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* May I add my feeble voice to the earnest plea of other scholars for the commutation of Eoin MacNeill's sentence from penal to political? If the British Government, by an extended act of grace, released the illustrious savant, who is advanced in years and in frail health, Albion would undoubtedly ingratiate herself with the turbulent Irish Nationalists who feel scared or incensed by a traditional policy of coercion and frightfulness. The National University of Ireland, though one of the youngest, is the foremost champion of Celtic scholarship, and can ill afford to forfeit Professor MacNeill's proved worth and wisdom.

Irish studies are fully appreciated in America. Columbia University has opened winter courses in colloquial Irish. The educational value of most Gaelic classes, however, is marred by a strong controversial current adverse to British overlordship. Moreover, the supple speech of the sennachies and brehons, the professional story tellers and priestly jurists of old Ireland, can no more be revived in the market place than Anglo-Saxon in Piccadilly or Broadway, despite the energetic propaganda of the Gaelic League. The Irish renaissance in the European seats of learning has a further reaching aspect, Professor MacNeill having no mean share in that grand cultural movement.

It is pleasing to reflect that the National University of Ireland approaches the higher teaching of Gaelic not only from a national standpoint but from a wider point of view, which applies critical methods. The Erse language and literature would have little universal bearing if they were isolated and detached from general knowledge. In order to be productive and to influence modern thought, Gaelic must be contemplated from an Indo-European window, so to speak.

Material for Irish philology is ample indeed, but almost unused. Meillet's Indo-European Grammar, which has just come out in a fourth edition in Paris, lends itself admirably to a historical and comparative treatment of Gaelic phonology and accidence. Even more so Brugmann's monumental work, ably Englished by Professor Wright and his literary collaborators.

Again, the valuable etymological compilations by Walde (for Latin), Curtius (for Greek) and Uhlenbeck (for Sanskrit) could easily be adapted and adopted for a university text book on Gaelic etymology. It is an all important subject, hitherto sadly neglected in the universities of English speaking lands, yet the only safe key to the almost unexplored treasures of Celtic mythology and saga lore, to the misty gods and far off heroes of pagan Ireland.

Last, but not least, the fascinating archæology of Ireland receives a new and unexpected stimulus from the Vorgeschichte of the Gaels, from the unrecorded, and therefore all the more bewitching, times when the deerskin kilted Scots still roamed, together with the forebears of Hindus, Hellenes and Romans, over the vast steppe lands north of the Caspian, Black and Aral seas. Aryan archæology is the scientific basis of Irish antiquities. In this department, too, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. The field has been somewhat tilled by the indefatigable Dr. Schrader of the University of Breslau, who now prepares a second edition of his epoch making Aryan encyclopedia (Indogermanisches Reallexikon), which unfortunately is still untranslated.

Sanskrit shows the clearest and most pristine type of Pan-Aryan speech. If the Druid priests of old had scratched their sacred incantations and wild nature poetry in Ogham runes on birch bark as early as the Brahmin sages of Hindustan, we should know Gaelic in as primitive a form as we do know Sanskrit. As it is, Vedic Sanskrit is more perspicuous and original, nearer the type than even the oldest Irish glosses that are extant. For this reason the young and promising rival of Trinity College, Dublin, would do well to include Sanskrit in its national curriculum.

Ireland and India present the two thorniest problems to British statesmanship, while Gaelic and Sanskrit are two of the most radiant gems in the intellectual keep of Britain, aye, of the civilized world. May Eoin MacNeill soon be restored to his alma mater!

ERNEST P. HORRWITZ.

Formerly lecturer in Sanskrit and Indian literature at Dublin University, Trinity College.

NEW YORK, November 9.

Odd Titles of Newspapers.

In Columbus, says the *Dispatch*, there is a man whose chief joy is in a collection of newspaper titles.

There are *Headlights*, *Flashlights*, *Bees*, *Eagles*, *Owls*, *Mirrors* and *News-Letters*, but when it comes to *Derricks*, *Meddlers*, *Telescopes*, *Flags* and *Sunbeams* the class is limited. In Hot Springs there is published the *Arkansas Thomas Cat*, and other titles just as unusual are the *Sledge Hammer*, the *Irrepressible*, the *Silent Worker* and *Gall*.

Frequently it is possible to tell from the title of a newspaper the State in which it is published. For instance, the *Chieftain* is in Oklahoma; the *Rustler* and the *Lariat* are in Texas; *Big Hole Breezes* in Montana, and the *Roundup* in Wyoming.

A Memorial to Poe.

The old *Literary Messenger* building at Richmond, says the *Virginian*, the place where Edgar Allan Poe began his literary career, must be torn down. The committee which has been working to preserve the structure as a memorial to Poe will see that the building is torn down in such a way as to render the materials available for the reconstruction. It was in this house, it will be recalled, that Poe wrote the first of his great poems which became famous. It is possible that the Council will provide sufficient funds for the rebuilding of the house. In all probability it will be built on the Richmond College campus at Westhampton.

POEMS WORTH READING.

St. Martin's Summer.

Brown are the gardens and the fields,
And gray the branches bare,
Sad colored as the monkish garb
St. Martin used to wear;
And all the little woodland brooks
In brier and bramble lost,
And blades of withered grasses tell
Their crystal beads of frost.

But see! the Hudson flows beneath
A veil of silver mist,
The Palisades are robed and crowned
With rose and amethyst,
A golden shimmer fills the sky
And o'er the earth is spread
The glory of the halo bright
Around St. Martin's head.

MINNA IRVING.

The Happy Family.

There's a lullaby land
Where adjectives stand
Like nurses and coddle a noun.
When adverbs draw near
They tremble with fear
At sight of Doc Syntax's frown.

The verbs in a row
Tell all that they know
About the noun baby petite.
While conjunctions so kind
In a trice have combined
Soft words in a eulogy sweet.

Prepositions join in
With the family din.
All led by old Grammar so true,
And to show their affections
Pronouns and interjections
Make glad at the christening too.

H. STANLEY HASKINS.

Sonnet.

From the Harvard Monthly.

Anon I bade my love to come and dwell
Within my garden, where the lily bell
Grew wild and doubly fragrant, and the rose
Lived on immortally that it might tell
Of love and life as one. The flower knows
And, well for me, my love did not refuse.
But in the gates, as though her dear heart froze,
She stopped, and paled, and faced me to accuse,
For singing by the brook, she saw my muse.

I feared. But with a joy unurged and free
My muse looked up and smiled on love and me.
"My singing here hath been but half a song."
She said. "O little sister, come, for we
Shall make each other beautiful and strong."

FRANZ RICKABY.

Laughter.

From the Detroit Free Press.

Laughter sort o' settles breakfast better
than digestive pills,
Found it, somehow, in my travels cure for
every sort of ills;
When the hired help have riled me with
their slipshod, careless ways
An' I'm bilin' mad an' cussin' an' my temper's all ablaze,
If the calf gets me to laughin' while
they're teachin' him to feed,
Pretty soon I'm feelin' better, 'cause I've
found the cure I need.

Like to start the day with laughter; when
I've had a peaceful night
An' can greet the sun all smilin' that day's
goin' to be all right.
But there's nothing goes to suit me when
my system's full o' bile,
Even horses quit their pulin' when the
driver doesn't smile.
But they'll buckle to the traces when they
hear a glad giddap,
Just as though they like to labor for a
cheerful kind o' chap.

Laughter keeps me strong an' healthy.
You can bet I'm all run down,
Fit for doctor folks an' nurses when I
cannot shake my frown.
Found in furnishin' laughter's useful, good
for sheep an' cows an' goats,
When I've laughed my way through summer, reap the biggest crop of oats.
Laughter's good for any business, least-
ways so it seems to me—
Never knew a smilin' feller but was busy
as could be.

Sometimes sit an' think about it, ponderin'
on the ways o' life,
Wonderin' why mortals gladly face the
toil an' care an' strife.
Then I come to this conclusion—take it
now, for what it's worth,
It's the joy of laughter keeps us pioddin'
on this stretch of earth.
Men the fun of life are seeking—that's
the reason for the calf
Spillin' mash upon his keeper—men are
hungry for a laugh.

An Autumn Day.

From the Montreal Star

The painter gazed on his canvas
Stretching before him, so fair,
Then lifted his soft white frost brush,
Touching it here and there,
Touching and blending with colors
From crimson to russet brown,
And gilding the pathway, the stream and
the bridge,
Soft showers of gold came down.

The sceptic gazed in rapture
On the scene that before him lay,
Then fervently thanked the Maker
For the joy of an Autumn Day.

The Pawnshop Window.

From the Forum.

I paused to see the wanton gaudy show,
What motley mass comprised this wealth
of woe:

A treasured toy, a tool, a violin,
A volume rare, all thumbed and worn
within—

The wreckage of the luckless and the lost,
Uncharitable, starless souls, and counter
crossed.

And, peering close, some curious thing to
choose,
One corner showed a baby's crumpled
shoes.

That greed should gamble in such ghastly
prize!
I staggered on unseeing, worldly wise.

EMILY BEATRICE GNAGEY.

An Encounter.

From the Atlantic Monthly.

Once on the kind of day called "weather
breeder,"
When the heat slowly hazes and the sun
By its own power seems to be undone,
I was half boring through, half climbing through
A swamp of cedar. Choked with oil of
cedar
And scurf of plants, and weary and overheated,
And sorry I had left the road I knew,
I paused and rested on a sort of hook
That had me by the coat as good as seated,
And since there was no other way to look,
Looked up toward heaven, and there,
against the blue,
Stood over me a resurrected tree,
A tree that had been down and raised
again,
A harkless spectre. He had halted too,
As if for fear of treading upon me.
I saw the strange position of his hands—
Up at his shoulders, dragging yellow
strands
Of wire with something in it from men to
men.
"You here?" I said. "Where aren't you
nowadays?
And what's the news you carry—if you
know?
And tell me where you're off for—Montreal?"
Me? I'm not off for anywhere at all.
Sometimes I wander out of beaten ways
Half looking for the Orchid Calypso."

ROBERT FROST.

Blessing.

From the Springfield Republican.

To-day a rosebud opened in the garden of
my heart;
A little pink rose bloomed so fair within
its cloistered space,
And all the air is redolent—the spaces of
my heart
Are fairer for its blooming, as if a sudden grace
Had lent itself to living; ah! rose that
bloomed o'er night,
Shall I despair because alas, all roses'
petals fall?
What if a thorn be hidden underneath
your petals white,
Your fragrance are will linger here
within my garden wall.

FLORA SHUFELT RIVOLA.

From the Court to the Kitchen.

Doris delighted in tennis
Poetry's slave was Estelle;
Dancing to Maud was a menace,
The stage over Sue cast a spell.

Mannish, in boots, swaggered Cora.
Mystery stalked after Belle.
Luring, with dimples, was Flora,
While glacial was haughty Adele.

None of them suited my fancy,
The quest of a wife I forsook;
Then into my life entered Nancy,
The genius who knew how to cook!

DOROTHY MARCUS O'NEILL.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

In "Village Life in America," by Caroline Cowles Richards, I find on page 119 the following:

"February 8, 1860—Grandfather asked me to read Abraham Lincoln's speech aloud which he delivered in Cooper Institute, New York, last evening under the auspices of the Republican Club. He was escorted to the platform by David Dudley Field and introduced by William Cullen Bryant. The New York *Times* called him 'a noted political exhorter and prairie orator.'"

Is it true that the *Times* spoke in this way of Lincoln? E. CLARK.

Yes. You will find it in the number of the *Times* for February 28, 1860, at the opening of the summary "News of the Day" in the first column of the editorial page. The sentence runs:

"There was a very large meeting of Republicans at Cooper Institute last evening to listen to that noted political exhorter and prairie orator, ABE LINCOLN of Illinois."

The meeting was held on the evening of February 27, 1860, and the passage quoted from "Village Life in America" should be dated February 28.

In leaving her home port in Germany did the submarine Deutschland clear for a port in the United States? W. W. H.

For "New London or any other American port."

Can some reader solve the following problem for me? I have a one horsepower motor making 1,275 revolutions a minute. This motor has a 4 inch pulley on its shafting. On the other shafting where my worm gear is I have a 10 inch pulley with a twenty-four toothed gear. The motor runs a sieving machine through which go sugared goods, sometimes moist, sometimes dry. I want to know how to figure the speed of this sieving machine—how many revolutions a minute it makes.

WILLIAM BERENS, Jr.

Are the Germans Huns? Are they racially the same? A. B. S.

Certainly not. The people of Britain have formed the habit of so referring to their enemies. That is all.

I cannot find in Tennyson the line: "When Roland to the dark tower came." B. G.

Aren't you thinking of Byron's "Childe Harold"?

Are the Rhodes scholarships for the benefit of students of all nationalities or for men from certain countries only? CONSTANT READER.

The will of Cecil John Rhodes provided scholarships at Oxford for British, American and German students as follows: South Africa, 24; Australasia, 21; Canada, 6; Atlantic Islands, 6; West Indies, 3; United States, 96; Germany, 15. A bill is now before Parliament to exclude German students from these scholarships after the war.

What monetary value, if any, has McSpadon and Baker's lithograph of Wall street (1825) [size of p. 41½x7½ ins.—*Valentine's Manual*]? J. W. D.

Mr. Lathrop C. Harper informs us: "I presume that this is the print, 'Wall Street Looking West, 1825,' which came in the 1855 *Valentine's Manual*. The volume sells for about $3.50. The separate print has little value."

If, at the time of the Lusitania disaster, war had been declared between the United States and Germany, would the United States have had the legal right to seize German merchant vessels then in the harbor of New York, and, if so, would the United States have had to pay for these ships upon the conclusion of hostilities? C. C. P.

They might lawfully have been so seized only in case they were wholly or partly Government owned or under the jurisdiction of the German Admiralty; in the case of privately owned and controlled vessels internment would have been in order.

Where did the Windsor Hotel stand and when was it burned? D. H.

The Windsor Hotel, at Fifth avenue and Forty-sixth street, was burned March 17, 1899.

A short time ago I read in a Boston paper that Miralles is considered the greatest Spanish artist. As I have had one of his paintings in my possession the past thirty years I am anxious to know if he really ranks with Zuloaga and Sorolla. Can some of your readers tell me about him? H. P. R.

Can a man born in the United States of foreign parents become President? J. M.

Yes.

Did a man go over Niagara Falls and through the Whirlpool Rapids in a barrel and come out alive? G. R. GAYNOR.

C. D. Graham passed through the Whirlpool Rapids safely in an oak barrel constructed by him for the purpose, July 11, 1886. Walter S. Campbell swam them in a cork jacket, September 15, 1889. Neither went over the falls.

When did Joseph Jefferson first play *Rip Van Winkle* at the Adelphi Theatre, London? What anniversary of this theatre recently occurred? SYRACUSE.

Against his inclination Jefferson made his first appearance in Dion Boucicault's play "Rip Van Winkle" at the Adelphi on the night of September 4, 1865. Possibly the anniversary of the theatre that you have in mind is the completion of the 110th year of its existence. It dates from 1806.

What is the cost of 327 barrels of sugar at 6 1-3 cents a pound, each barrel weighing 624½ pounds? G.

$12,532.36 13-20 cents.

Please tell me the birthday of President Poincare. A. L. R.

The French President was born August 20, 1860, in Bar-le-Duc, Lorraine.

Regarding "J. D's" inquiry in Questions and Answers for November 5 concerning the history of Clifton's chop house: I took the inquiry to Mr. Adam Engel, proprietor of Engel's Chop House, which is the successor of Clifton's. Mr. Engel was not there, but "Charley," now one of his managers, but whom I have known as a waiter there for the past twenty-five years, promised me that Mr. Engel would supply the history that your correspondent asks for. My first visit to Clifton's was paid on the night of the opening of Harrigan's (now the Garrick) Theatre. "Oscar," "Charlie" and "Billy" were serving there then, just as they are now. J. S. A.

Before the European war did the United States owe any of the European nations or were they in debt to us? S. S.

We owed them on trade balances and they held many of our securities; in this way we were a debtor nation. At present we have bought back most of our securities, have a trade balance heavily in our favor and have lent directly large sums to Europe.

PROBLEMS FOR 'SUN' READERS TO SOLVE

Adroit Management That Wins Games at Bridge and Checkers.

Bridge problem No. 403 comes back to the old game of forcing discards by an adroit management of the lead. While not especially difficult, it required careful play, and several solvers confess to some struggles before they were sure they had it. Here is the distribution:

	♡ K J 7 ♣ K ◇ 10 6 ♠ -----	
♡ Q 9 ♣ 9 ◇ ----- ♠ K 8 3	Y A B Z	♡ 6 5 4 ♣ 7 ◇ K 3 ♠ -----
	♡ ----- ♣ 5 ◇ A 8 ♠ J 10 4	

Clubs are trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want five tricks against any defence.

The solution is for Z to lead the trump, which Y wins. Y then leads the smaller of his two diamonds, which B passes up. Although the eight would win the trick, Z puts on the ace and leads the eight, so as to throw the lead into B's hand. This forces B to kill his partner's queen of hearts, the whole spade suit being thrown away.

If B anticipates this attack by playing the king of diamonds when Y leads the six Z will still win the trick with the ace, but instead of returning the diamond, which would now throw Y into the lead, he adjusts his play to A's discards.

If A still holds two hearts he must have shed a spade on the diamond, and by leading the spade jack Z makes two tricks in that suit unless A prefers to give Y two heart tricks. If A has discarded one of his hearts on the diamond Y and Z get six tricks instead of five, as Z still has the eight of diamonds to lead, and Y can win it with the ten, so as to make all three of his hearts.

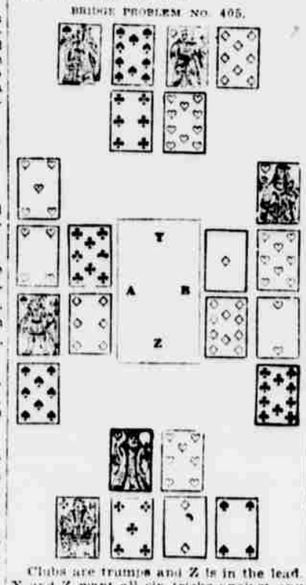
The following list, alphabetically arranged, contains the names of all who solved this problem correctly and who had already solved Nos. 401 and 402. Those who solved No. 403 but missed either of the others are in a separate list:

Henry Andresen, Harry E. Atwood, Louis Bernstein, B. D. Blair, O. H. Boston, B. G. Braine, Bud, Frank S. Busser, E-S-K-C., Charles J. Chapman, Harry Cook, Mary Adams Cox, Cumberland, H. D., P. K. Danneman, George M. Deville, Irving C. Dutcher, A. J. E., J. M. Edmunds, K. Elizabeth, E. A. Evans, Mrs. A. Langdon Freese, Henry H. Fuller, Jules R. Gimbernat, George B. Glover, W. H., Roscoe C. Harris, L. S. Hart, Jr., L. A. Hawkins, Charles Haynes, E. L. Hicks, Karl Humphrey, F. H. Huy, J. C. Hume, Dr. M. Isaac, Arthur C. Ives, A. S. J., W. J. Jullen, C. F. Johnson, W. O. Johnson, B. C. Jutten, Keystone, Mrs. E. Clark King, William A. Knight, Mary Lee, A. K. Leech, C. H. Le Mon, Archer F. Lowe, H. C. M., F. D. Mackay, Markham, F. Martin, R. C. Mankowski, Carlos Montreal, C. E. Morse, Sioux Murphy, W. M. Murphy, E. C. Norman, William B. Orr, Mrs. F. H. Osborne, O. S. P., Lefferts Park, E. Converse Pierce, J. Garcia Pimentel, Charles E. A. Popp, M. T. Raymond, Henry Ritter, T. Y. Roe, William E. Rooney, Charles M. Root, Harry Rosenthal, Capt. Frank Roy, S. G. R., John C. Schoenewolf, Julius A. Serra, C. G. Smedley, Isabel H. Sutliff, E. L. Tyler, W. J. Vanderwoort, D. A. W., E. G. W., W. P. W., Henry Wallace, Edward H. Warren, Marie Van Riper Watts, Mrs. Robert G. Weeks, E. W. White and Percival Wilde. The only solver of 403 who missed both the others was P. Beck.

The ten of diamonds was responsible for the elimination of thirty names from the former list. That play will not solve if B covers with the king, because A can then discard hearts and duck the first high spade Z leads, making king and eight.

For the information of several inquirers, in card diagrams the jacks have legs, the kings have not.

BRIDGE PROBLEM NO. 405.



Clubs are trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want all six tricks against any defence.

CHECKER ENDINGS.

Problem No. 403 presents a peculiarly instructive position for the beginner and shows how clever management may sometimes pull an apparently hopeless game out of the fire. White's third move deserves special notice.

The distribution is: Black men on 11, 15 and 26. White men on 7, 19 and 23. No kings. Black to play and draw. Here are moves that solve:

Black.	White.
26—31	7—3
31—27	3—8
15—17*	8—15
17—21	23—22
27—23	19—16
23—18	

The following alphabetical list shows those who have correctly solved Nos. 401 and 402 and 403. Those who missed one or other of the previous problems but solved this one are in a separate list:

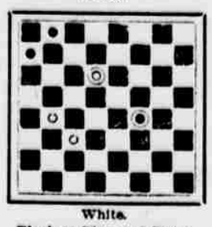
Albany, Conrad Albeldt, W. T. Allen, A. J. B., J. M. B., H. E. Bourne, William Brennenkant, J. J. P. Bronx, C. M. Bunn, A. C., A. T. Campbell, Dewitt E. Clayton, William D. Clark, T. J. Comerford, J. B. Compton, C. E. Corliss, Fausto Dalumi, Willard R. Draper, A. A. Dunn, J. M. Edmunds, William Fleming, Albert J. Ford, Samuel S. Ford, Owen Fox, Thomas Foy, George P. Fraprie, Thomas Gimenez, E. J. Graf, John Graham, Charles L. Grimes, J. P. Goss, H. A. M., L. S. Hart, Jr., C. R. Hartmayer, Charles S. Higgs, Hoboken, James Hyland, David Jack, Elijah P. Landry, Mary Lee, Charles C. Long, George M. Lord, Henry Lowe, Frank W. Maybeck, T. W. Mullaney, J. Murphy, Angus McDonald, P. J. McGarry, T. W. McMahon, James McNally, J. H. Noremac, William B. Orr, H. L. Paine, James G. Pinkerton, Julius C. Rauch, Edward Roeben, C. Ross, John Ryan, T. F. S., Julius A. Serra, Andrew Sheppard, Benjamin Simon, Thomas Stapleton, Michael Triebel, D. A. W. and Charles Whitehead.

Those who solved 402 and 403 but missed 401, were: Samuel Gonotsky, H. Prior King and Evan Powell. Those who solved 403 only are: George Bauer, S. Riddell, M. Schechter and J. M. Sullivan.

Several have written to say that No. 404 must be set up wrong. Such is not the case. The distribution of the pieces is: Black men on 17, kings on 20 and 32. White man on 23, kings on 15 and 27. Black to play and win. This is the first bombardment of the honor list.

PROBLEM NO. 405. CHECKERS.

Black.



White.

Black to Play and Draw.

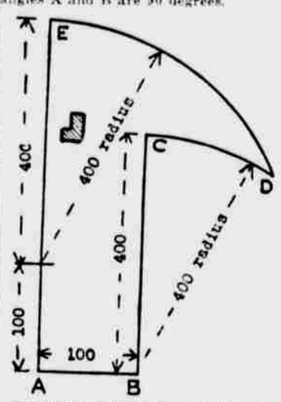
SOME MORE GEOMETRY.

Several correspondents have been good enough from time to time to compliment THE SUN upon the originality of its geometrical problems, the solutions to which are not to be found in any of the text books of the schools. Some have also been good enough to suggest new and difficult problems that have presented themselves in practical life.

Here is one, from a correspondent who prefers to conceal his identity under the name of "Handa," which presents a rather unusual set of conditions, but which should attract the attention of any one who is interested in the practical uses of geometrical formulas.

A man whom we shall call A owned a piece of ground, and gave another man, B, an option on half of it, but the written memorandum did not state in exact terms how the property was to be divided, except that it should be by "straight lines." In talking it over between themselves they had probably agreed where these lines were to go.

The piece of land in question was of a peculiar shape, owing to the fact that a railroad curve formed one boundary and that before the present owner came into possession this railroad had started to cut across the property on a continuation of the curve from D to C, but finding the house directly in the way, it had shifted the curve from D to E. The angles A and B are 90 degrees.



It was while the land was in this shape that A gave B the option on half of it, but before the option expired both A and B died, and the executors of B's estate determined to take up the option for his heirs and called upon A's executors to divide the piece into two equal parts by straight lines alone, and with as few lines as possible. The shape was not the point so much as equal acreage.

What might have been the original idea of the division there was nothing to show, except that it was assumed that A should be left in possession of his house. The reason for the stipulation about the straight lines was evidently to avoid the possibility of B's being put off with a thin slice along the curve of the railroad.

How was the property divided into two parts of exactly the same area with as few straight lines as possible, and how did the executors prove that the division was absolutely correct?

SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

E. M. M. asks if imperial clubs, tiger diamonds and such are recognized bids.

No. They are simply sideshows for the amusement of those who think they can play the game and want to liven it up a bit.

S. L. W. says: The dealer passes, holding seven hearts to the jack, three diamonds to the ace, two small clubs and one small spade. A bid no trump, Y two no trumps. B passes. What should Z do?

Bid three hearts of course. The modern style for Y would be to double instead of bidding two no trumps.

S. S. B. says: Z deals and passes; A bids a heart, Y two clubs. What should B do, holding ten of clubs alone, three small hearts, three diamonds to the jack and six spades to the queen jack ten?

If the partner is a sound bidder and can be trusted for the tops in hearts, the bid is two spades.

Poker—O. M. McM. says: On the call A shows a pair of aces, with small cards. B has queen, king, ace, deuce and trey. Which wins?

Unless previously agreed to, round the corner straights are worthless.

Duplicate Auction—A. B. K. asks how the revoke penalty is imposed, so as not to make the score excessively in favor of the side not in error.

It is 100 points, as usual. Of course, the pair that get the revoke are that much ahead, but it is usually placed in a separate column, so as to balance the scores.

C. D. G. asks if there is any law that prevents the declarer from asking dummy to play certain cards, to naming the cards wanted for the correct trick?

On the contrary, it is a very common practice, especially when the table is wide, or when the trays are left on the table during the progress of a duplicate game. The law is against the dummy's playing cards without being directed to do so.

Russian Bank—D. P. F. asks if any one can furnish complete rules for this game, or if they are in print.

The game is a form of double solitaire, played by two persons with two packs. One plays until he makes an error or can go no further. Then his opponent plays. THE SUN would be glad to have any information as to house rules for manner of claiming errors, mistakes in so doing, &c.

USE OF THE DOUBLE AT ROYAL AUCTION

Correct Tactics at Bridge Are Illustrated From Actual Games.

By R. F. FOSTER.

The following interesting case has just been decided by the committee on laws of The Whist Club. The point at issue was as to which of two penalties should apply. The question was whether the player in error gave his partner information as to certain cards in hand, which would come under clause 4 of law 68, the penalty for which would be to expose the cards indicated; or whether it was an unauthorized reference to an incident of the play, the penalty for which is to call a lead under law 93.

Case—A no trump is being played. The opening lead is a spade, which is won by the leader, who continues it. On the third round of spades, three cards having been played, the declarer hesitates and the leader says, "Put on your ace, it's the only spade you have." The player who made the remark had two spades remaining in his hand and the ace was the only spade not in his hand. Query: Did this remark give improper information to his partner and if so what is the penalty?

Decision—This case is covered by law 93. It is an unauthorized reference to an incident of the play and the declarer has the right to call a suit from the adversary whose next turn it is to lead.

A good illustration of the correct and the incorrect use of the double was given in the following hand played at the Knickerbocker duplicate game: