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Coal-burning locomotives no longer draw trains into the Grand Central Station in New York through the long Park Avenue tunnel. The last steam locomotive ran out of the station on the night of June 30. Electric locomotives are now used, and make travel much pleasanter, as well as safer. It is likely to be a long time before electricity displaces steam for pulling trains long distances, but for suburban traffic it is probable that it will be the exclusive power within the lifetime of men now past middle age.

A University of Chicago professor denies miracles. How would he explain the case of a pretty girl worth a million who falls in love with her father's bald-headed bookkeeper earning \$65 a month?

"I Take This Man" is the title of a new play. The author is probably anxiously waiting to learn whether it is to be for better or for worse.

No, girls; the attack on the powder trust will not affect the prices on toilet articles.

THE SHOPLIFTER



OPERATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR WOMEN THIEVES WHICH COST THE BIG CITY STORES INCREDIBLY LARGE SUMS ANNUALLY

just outside the door. If the shoplifter objects, which she seldom does, knowing that the game is up, the police department is notified by telephone, and a city detective sent to the store, when the thief is placed under arrest, taken out of the place as quietly as possible and removed to a police station, where she is searched by the police matron, and a charge of theft made against her. The experienced shoplifter usually seeks to make as little disturbance as possible when caught, relying upon quieter methods of getting out of her dilemma.

BRINGS PINCHING BUGS.

British Steamship Wary of Battle with Irrespressible Pests.

Bombay pinching bugs invaded an Eveless Eden when they climbed aboard the British freight steamship Strathairly at Bombay on July 12, says the New York Herald. To use the words of the Strathairly's second officer, Mr. Kelso, it was a pinch all the way over, and the ship came into this port yesterday literally on a pinch as well. The pinching bugs of Bombay have a habit of biting hard, and for almost 60 days the sailors on the Strathairly kept up a continuous fight against the little pests.

Visitors to the Strathairly came off the ship with one or more of the bugs clinging to their clothes. If the visitor did not watch out for them the bugs would, by easy stages reach the face of their victim and then—the pinching kiss.

Robert van Fossholler, a Transvaal sailor on board the ship, thought he had a remedy for the bug plague in a liquid concoction with which he liberally sprinkled the fo'c's'le quarters. He drove out the bugs and the other men of the crew as well. Then Baxin, a Frenchman, the ship's chef, produced a bug powder that was warranted to kill any bug alive. It blew great monsoons the day after the powder had been sprinkled over the ship, and as a result every particle of food not down in the stores was made useless.

Captain Herne, Mr. Duncan, chief of fier, and the second saw no humor in the situation of the kissing-pinching bug plague, and in this view they were backed up by the crew. Then the Suez canal was passed through, and the bugs continued to multiply. There was a council of war, and it was decided to ask for advice at Algiers. In Algiers the commandante, or whatever that official's title was, came aboard and investigated and departed with a dozen samples of the Bombay bug clinging to his robes.

At quarantine Dr. Doty disinfected the steamer according to the rules governing ships arriving from far eastern ports. Everything in the way of microbes and germs aboard was officially disposed of—except the kissing bugs. They remained as stowaways, and continued with the Strathairly to the Bush docks, where they promenade ashore in pairs and quartets, and visited the offices on the piers.

Shower of Fish in Australia.

In a communication to the Royal Society of Queensland, Douglas Ogilby records the occurrence of a shower of fishes which fell in Brisbane during a severe hailstorm on Oct. 7 last.

They were identified as the species known as the trout gudgeon (*Krefftia adspersus*). Such showers of small fish are not unknown in other parts of the world. Sometimes after a heavy rain they are found swimming about in the pools formed on the surface of the fields.

The explanation is that the waters of a pond or lake have been drawn up into the clouds by a whirlwind, carrying some of the smaller fry with them. The latter, of course, promptly descend again in the rain.—London Globe.

You people who quarrel easily, remember that no quarrel was ever really made up.

HANDS ACROSS THE FALLS.



—Baltimore American.

GERMANY'S TOYS.

Their Manufacture One of the Country's Big Industries.

Some interesting particulars of the toy industry of Germany have been published by the British consul at Hamburg. Toys constitute one of the most important branches of German manufacture. In the year 1903 the total volume of toys exported from all parts of the German Empire was 34,717 tons, valued at \$15,931,370. Though there is hardly any country in the world to which German toys are not exported, the most important customer of Germany is Great Britain, which in the year under review received 12,218 tons. The second most important market for German toys is this country, the exports to which amounted in 1903 to 11,055 tons, valued at \$4,093,135.

The most important centers for the manufacture of toys in Germany are Nuremberg and Puerth in Bavaria, Sonneberg and some other parts of Thuringia and the Saxon "Erzgebirge." Nuremberg, above all, has long been known throughout the world for its trade and industry, and German toys, wherever made, still go in many countries by the name of Nuremberg toys.

came in a high falsetto and decidedly Irish brogue this remark:

"Why the devil don't ye spalpeens pull th' cannon to yer right? Begorra, ye'r a lot of low-tide clams!"

"I looked in the direction whence the voice came and saw a short Chinaman, as I supposed, with a long queue and a genuine Celtic cast of countenance. He was holding a little Chinese boy by the hand.

"Who are you? I shouted at him.

"An Amirikin, like yerself," was the reply.

"I am a Chinese-Irish-American, an' me name is O'Flaherty."

Mr. O'Neill said he had a long talk with the quaint fellow, who informed him that he left Tyrone, Pa., for China about twenty years ago, and upon his arrival in the celestial empire he married a Chinese woman, adopted their manners and garb, including a false queue. He added that he was the father of several little Chinese-Irish O'Flahertys.

"Why have you not dropped the 'O' forminst your name?" asked Mr. O'Neill.

"You seldom see an O'Flaherty these days. They are all Flahertys."

"I didn't drap me 'O' for th' same reason ye did not drap yers. Ye know

STUDYING MAN AS A MACHINE.



THE CALORIMETER CHAMBER.

Some time ago Dr. Andrew Wilson discussed the calorimetric experiments at an American university. Sheffield University has now installed a similar chamber, in which a man is shut up in order that the heat generated by his body may be observed. By a system of registering instruments the heat generated by the body in action and in repose is minutely recorded. The prisoner has to live for several days in a calorimeter, and his food is passed to him through a porthole so contrived that the heat of the chamber cannot be affected by the opening of communication with the outside world. For exercise he rides a stationary bicycle, and during the time he is on the machine a record is taken of the change in the temperature of the body.—Illustrated London News.

At Fuerth, which is close to Nuremberg, a flourishing trade and industry has likewise sprung up since about the end of the eighteenth century. Next to Nuremberg and Fuerth the town and district of Sonneberg has for many years enjoyed the best reputation for its toy industry and trade, while in the Saxon "Erzgebirge," a district comparatively poor in natural products, the manufacture of toys has likewise for some time furnished a source of livelihood to thousands of its inhabitants.

The toys made at Nuremberg and Fuerth are chiefly of the metal variety, made either of tin, tinned sheet iron or of tin and lead alloys. Of the more than 200 toy factories established in both of these towns, about 150 are devoted exclusively to metal toys, the only part of them worked by hand being the final painting, while all the rest is manufactured by machinery. In this respect this toy industry of the two Bavarian towns occupies a rather different position from that of all the other parts of Germany, where it is almost exclusively carried on by manual labor; that is to say, by workmen and women in their own homes. The success of the Nuremberg and Fuerth metal toy manufacturers is mainly attributable to the skillful manner in which the materials have been employed, and in which the machinery and tools used for the work have been adapted and gradually improved by the toy manufacturers themselves, thus enabling them to produce large quantities of articles of a comparatively short time, and to reduce the expenses of production, and in consequence also the sale prices of the articles manufactured by them.—Scientific American.

The State experiment stations are doing a great work for the farmers. The following incident shows how simple some of the tests are "when you know how," says a writer in Country Life in America. A station official was going over a farm with the owner when they came to a crawfish piece of land just back of the barn; the weeds looked yellow and unhealthy.

"I am inclined to think," remarked the agriculturist, "that this land is too acid for productivity. We can determine this in a moment."

Taking a blue piece of paper from his pocket he stooped and dipped the paper in some of the soil water that was standing in a cow track. To the owner's astonishment the blue paper changed to a red color as soon as it was immersed.

"There," said the agriculturist, "we have our proof. This is just a piece of litmus paper. For 5 cents you can buy a similar piece at any drug store. Its change of color shows that the land is sour. Crops cannot thrive on sour land any more than children can thrive on sour milk."

"Nobuddy" Answered.

The average small boy's opinion of himself is none too high, but the reply of a small stable boy in Chicago may scarcely be taken as the average. A woman whose husband kept the driving horse in one of the many "boarding stables" in the city telephoned the other day to have the horse and carriage brought to the house. A strange voice answered the telephone.

HE WAS AN IRISH CHINAMAN.

How Celtic Americans Became a Celestial Citizen.

While on a visit to Washington, D. C., recently, John B. O'Neill, a former Washington attorney, who is now engaged as military instructor in China, related an interesting and out-of-the-ordinary happening in which he was a principal. It occurred, says the Washington Star, about fifty miles from Peking.

"We were trying to get a big gun across a little stream," said Mr. O'Neill. "I had about thirty Chinamen engaged at the task, while fully a hundred more stood about the banks of the stream and looked on. When the cannon had reached the middle of the creek, or river, it became stalled in the soft mud at the bottom. I was yelling at the 'Chinke' in pidgin English, trying to get them to extricate the gun, when above the babel of Chinese voices there

in th' owid counthry the O'Flahertys and the O'Nells 'O' Iverbody."

FARMER'S LAND WAS SOUR.

Simple Test with Litmus Paper Showed Acid.

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Small things worry small minds.

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The general public has little idea of the well-organized plans in operation in nearly all large city retail stores to check thievery, says the head detective in one of the largest dry goods establishments. By the systematic prosecution of thieves the losses do not amount to one-third of what they did three years ago.

"Every large retail department store in New York and Chicago has its regularly organized staff of detectives whose duty it is to detect dishonesty in almost every form inside the store, while many establishments have a force of detectives who watch for thieves who may seek to rob the establishment's delivery wagons when out on their tours. Part of this force are men and part women. The employment of women in this capacity is absolutely necessary, for women can do excellent work where men would be worse than useless. For instance, if a male detective should be seen in the crowd at a bargain sale or at a counter where an unusually large number of women were congregated, the suspicions of any woman shoplifter in the crowd would be immediately aroused and she would trans-

would make a chronic thief of her by reason of the fact that she has been arrested and badly scared by threat of prosecution and imprisonment, but whose plea of kleptomaniacs has been accepted for the reason that it has been her first offense.

"In watching suspicious persons and detecting thieves, secret signals and words are employed that to the unsuspecting person, or even to the shoplifters, have no particular meaning, but which are well understood between the store detectives, floorwalkers and salesmen and saleswomen. Primarily, persons against whom there seems to be reason for suspicion are quickly 'sized up' by the store employe with whom they come in contact.

"Of course, many shoplifters study to disarm suspicion both by their general appearance and manner of address. They exhibit no nervousness, keep a keen watch of all that is going on near them, and, possessing plenty of nerve and self-confidence, perform the theft at the most opportune moment, taking care to make no false moves.

Many shoppers carry suit cases, as do hundreds of honest shoppers, and on taking their place at a counter leave the suit case partly open at their feet, so that articles may be quietly dropped therein when the salesperson is not looking. A small purchase being made, it is openly placed in the suit case and the shoplifter moves away. Other shoplifters carry a folded newspaper in one hand, and while the saleswoman's attention is diverted, slip some article between its folds.

"When suspicion is directed against a shopper by a salesperson, the fact is quickly conveyed to one of the detectives, who approaches seemingly as if wishing to look at some object with the intention of purchasing it. When it is shown the detective makes some objection to it, whereupon the salesperson moves a few feet away, apparently for the purpose of showing another article of the kind wanted. This gives the opportunity to speak a few words of explanation.

"Signals are sometimes given to salespersons by detectives when they have reason to be suspicious of a shopper who is being waited upon at the time. Again, words of seemingly no importance are used by the salespersons to inform a detective or floorwalker that a shopper has been detected in the act of stealing.

"When possible the shoplifter is led to the private office or a room where persons under suspicion are questioned and searched. Once inside, one of the male and one of the female detectives are summoned, and the thief informed she must submit to be searched by the female detective, the floorwalker and the male detective waiting

for her activities elsewhere, where no man was directly in evidence.

Arresting a Thief. "When a detective notes the theft of any article she follows the thief from counter to counter and thence out of the store, where the offender is arrested, not by the female detective, but by one of the male detectives of the establishment, who has been notified hurriedly by one of the salesmen or saleswomen, who are uncommonly quick to take in such a situation, knowing the identity of the men or women detectives; or by some policeman near the store to whom the female detective would appeal. The arrest of a shoplifter never is made inside the store if it can be avoided, and for two reasons, one being the probability of a scene being created, which is to be avoided, while the likelihood of the case against the shoplifter 'sticking' when it comes up in court is much greater if he or she is found with the stolen goods in their possession outside of the building.

"The best detectives are those who are unobtrusive in manner and appearance, as to attract attention is the last thing desired in that work. Then they have strict orders not to remain at one spot too long. They are to keep moving about in a careless way.

"One of the chief deterrents to shoplifting in the New York department stores is the fact that it is known by these criminals that vigorous and determined steps are now taken to prosecute them when arrested, and a long stay at Sing Sing or Auburn prison is a strong probability.

Kleptomaniacs. "As to the moral responsibility of so-called 'kleptomaniacs,' you will find experienced detectives who hold widely divergent opinions on the subject. Some are convinced that many women steal simply because they cannot resist the temptation to obtain something for nothing. Certainly many women steal articles for which they have no use and who are so well off financially that there is no need to steal. Others hold the opinion that 'a thief is a thief,' whether she be a woman in no actual need or one who steals as a means of living without working. Certain it is that many an alleged kleptomaniac has been checked in the course which soon