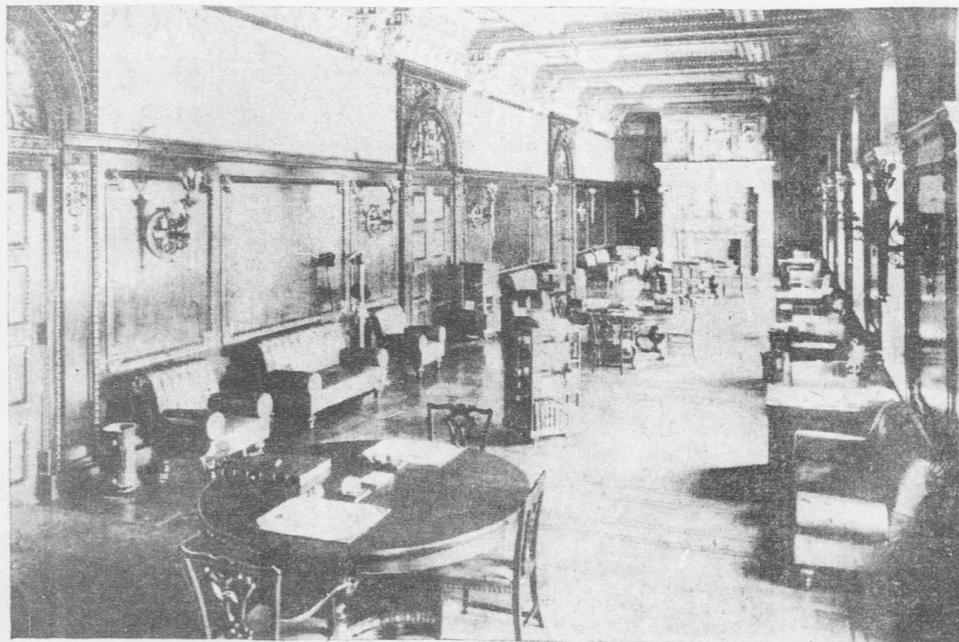
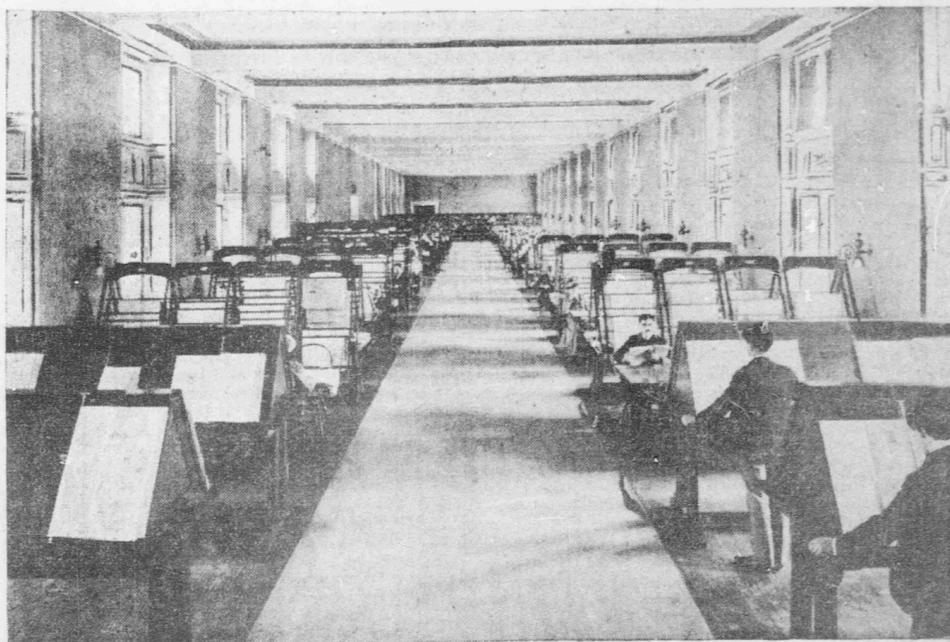


THE WORLD'S PERIODICALS MAY BE FOUND IN THIS READING ROOM



REPRESENTATIVES' READING ROOM.



NEWSPAPER AND PERIODICAL ROOM.

THE Library of Congress is now receiving 7,225 newspapers, of which over 2,600 are gifts of American publishers, while nearly 1,400 are received through the operations of the copyright law, and about 2,000 through the Smithsonian Institution and International Exchange. There are only some 800 subscriptions, and these are mainly for foreign newspapers and periodicals.

The largest attendance in this reading room is in the evening, when the average number of readers is 150. If the publishers of all the magazines and newspapers in the country could look in upon the groups of earnest, knowledge-seeking readers who go to this hall every day and evening there would perhaps not be a single one who would fail to make the gift of a free subscription of his journal to the library.

Convenience of Local Papers.

How eagerly does a traveler from home seize the opportunity to read his local paper, which for him contains matter of far more importance than that embodied in the great sheets of the big cities. Without the intervention of attendant readers may take what they desire among the rich collection, and that this privilege is highly appreciated is evinced by the close attention displayed by all, the utter stillness which prevails, and the decorum of manner practiced even by the most juvenile readers.

In the matter of representation by free gifts, our newspaper proprietors are responding more and more generously every year to this fine suggestion for giving educational help to their fellow-citizens, and it is not impossible that the day will come when every periodical

in the country will be offered gratuitously to the library.

The Polyglot Periodicals.

In the reading room the latest thought and knowledge is to be gleaned in various publications, in all the leading languages. There are French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Russian, and Scandinavian publications; there are Japanese, Siamese, and Turkish periodicals; there are Latin-American papers from every state in South America; there are Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand publications; there are Porto Rican papers, Hawaiian papers, papers from the Philippines; and, strangest of all, there is a very respectably printed semi-weekly journal from the Fiji Islands, published at Suva, and called the "Times."

The intention of the Librarian of Congress in acquiring these papers was to offer to readers such foreign periodicals as would exhibit most accurately the current political, industrial, and commercial activities of the various countries in which Congress and the public might be interested.

Librarian's Excellent Work.

In this view his work has been very successful, for the foreign papers are constantly in demand. As is well known, Herbert Putnam is the youngest librarian of a Government library in the world, and he holds first rank among the library scientists of the time. The newspaper and periodical reading room was opened under his auspices, and has reached its present state of efficiency through his ceaseless efforts for improvement. The chief of the division is Allan B. Slauson, who was appointed to the post by John Russell Young in 1897. Mr. Slauson's duties are precisely those which scarcely any but a trained "news-



BINDERY, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

paper man" could successfully cope with, and his seventeen years' experience in working upon the progressive journals of the country have been of great value to him in his present position.

Mr. Slauson was born in Onondaga county, New York State, in 1860, and received his education at Cornell University. The assistants in immediate charge of the room are ladies, whose refined manners and soft footfalls are

exactly in harmony with the quiet and reposeful air of the surroundings.

Aided by Classification.

An immense help to the student is the classification of the periodicals; thus, one case is devoted to journals dedicated to science, in which may be found magazines which treat respectively of electricity, engineering, metallurgy, railways, archeology, astronomy, astrology, biology, botany, or-

thology, general science, chemistry, geography, geology, bibliography, philately. The exposition of medical science begins with the "London Lancet" and the "Dental Cosmos," and carries everything along the lines of these.

Another case is filled with school bulletins, college circulars, university journals, alumni records, philology, phonography, stenography, typewriting, civics, economics, municipal affairs, political

economy, sociology, ethics, philosophy, occultism, psychology, theosophy, theology, biography, folk lore, genealogy, history, law, woman, home and domestic science, offer wide fields from which to choose a course of study.

The Ancient Publications.

In respect of its ancient publications, the periodical department of the library possesses great value to the student of history. Here is to be found the only complete copy in the United States of the official "London Gazette" from the remote period of 1665 to the present day. The "London Times" is complete from 1796, the "Allgemeine Zeitung" from its foundation in 1798, and the "Journal des Debats" and the "Paris Moniteur" from their first issues in 1789.

The deaths of William the Third, of Frederick, of Marlborough, Napoleon and of Wellington; the French Revolution, with all its horrors; the American Revolution, with all its sufferings and all its triumphs; the execution of Louis and of Marie Antoinette, the uprising and the overthrow of the house of Orleans, the advent of the third Napoleon, are among the manifold events which are painted for the reader in these columns with that terrific force which no medium but a newspaper can wield.

Newspaper Literature.

In American newspaper literature the library is rich. It possesses the best pre-revolutionary collection of journals in the country. There may also be found the "Diario de la Republica de Mexico," a daily journal, bound in twelve volumes, wherein may be read the complete story of the Mexican war. Nearly every newspaper ever published in Washington is represented by a complete file, and the New York papers are

also very nearly complete from their beginning.

The Southern press is well represented, especially that of the civil war period. The early periodical literature of Illinois, Louisiana, Tennessee, Ohio, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and California is ranked among the most precious of the collections of the library.

Files of Famous Journals.

Exceedingly interesting is a file of "The New England Weekly Journal," running from 1727 to 1729, inclusive; "The Log Cabin," Horace Greeley's campaign paper, published in 1840, is seen in a complete file; the "New York Herald" is also complete from its very beginning, and this great journal made some early attempts at illustration which are full of interest. There is, too, a complete file of the "New York Tribune" from 1841 to the present day.

Whoever desires to obtain knowledge relating to the events, great or small, which have transpired during the past three hundred years, may examine these files with advantage. The trio of immortal historians, Guizot, Macaulay, and Bancroft, have studied these very sheets, and used the data there obtained to surpassing benefit in their pages. The budding historian may profit by these illustrious examples.

From the Printing Office.

The bound volumes of newspapers and periodicals and serial publications of societies in the library now number 116,566, of which about 20,000 are newspapers. The bindery installed at the library turns out that high-class work which is observable in all the binding done at the Government Printing Office, under the skilled supervision of the Hon. Frank W. Palmer, Public Printer.

THE STRANGE ENDING OF A VANDERBILT ROMANCE

(Continued from Ninth Page.)

One object in view when a change is made in methods of operation, whether the change be great or small, from the consolidation of a number of roads down to the minutest improvement in rolling stock. That object is the production of an increased net revenue; and it may be brought about either by a reduction in the cost of transporting freight and passengers, or the cost of equipping a road with either system, and which will bring in the greatest return on the capital invested. The cost of the fuel naturally varies greatly in different parts of the country; but, with one exception, we may take it as being equal on any given road for both systems, omitting certain cases where coal of different quality may be used in power-houses and on locomotives, since, with coal or oil, the only other difference in cost would be found in the cost of transportation from the point of delivery to the point of consumption.

This would be equal in both plans, if we assume the distance between power houses to be approximately the same as the distance between coaling stations for locomotives. This brings us to the vital point of the discussion. The steam locomotive system is a direct acting machine—that is to say, it obtains the power of the drivers by means of a single conversion of energy; while the electric system must necessarily use a double or multiple conversion of energy before the power is obtained at the motor wheels.

Equal Train Service.

Taking the items properly chargeable to operation or conducting transportation, there should be no difference, under either plan, in the expense of su-

perintendence, station service, telegraph or signal operation, men employed as switchmen and flagmen, or men at present employed in the round-houses.

It is also fair to assume that the cost of general supplies, such as oil and waste, would be equal in both cases. The remaining item is the train service, which may be divided into wages of engine and train crews, and general train supplies. The latter should be equal for both systems, so we need only consider the former. It is impossible to run a freight train with safety with a smaller number of men than the number in an ordinary crew; while in the engine crew, should the third rail be used, it would be possible to dispense with the services of a fireman, though it would be so unsafe to have only one man in the cab that an assistant motorman should be employed.

This is not done on some of the electric passenger lines now in operation, such as the elevated roads in New York, but on a trunk line the chances of accident to an engine man are far greater, owing to the volume of traffic and to the speeds run, than on any suburban road, and it is, therefore, possible that, should a road equipped with the third rail attempt to operate with only one man in the cab, either the resulting accidents or the Interstate Commerce Commission would force the employment of a second.

That it is possible to use electricity as the motive power on trunk lines is not questioned. It is entirely possible from the engineering point of view, but from the financial point of view it is an impossibility except under the conditions mentioned.

A RACE FOR LIFE WITH WOLVES

RECENT news dispatches from Hull, Canada, tell of one of those startling tragedies which now and then direct attention to a class of men who spend more than half the months of each year in the solitude of the pine woods. Secluded in their log shanties from early in September, with, as a rule, no connection with the civilized world until the frost permits teamsters to bring their horses along the bush roads and over the lakes, these men are glad to seize every opportunity for a change.

When the lakes were covered with a clear sheeting of ice recently two young fellows employed on the shore of Deer Lake secured two pairs of skates which chafed to be in the place and set out at night to visit another band of men about nine miles away. With the exception of a little portage of about half a mile between two lakes, the whole journey was by ice and was no very formidable undertaking to the two sturdy log makers.

As they were hobbling over the portage on their skates, they were startled by the sudden breaking across their path of a red deer followed by three or four wolves, who were close upon the heels of their prey. Being without defensive weapons of any kind, they realized their danger if another pack of wolves should, as is often the case, follow after the beasts they had seen pass, and they made all speed to the lake before them.

Just as they were breaking through the thin ice at the lake side, they heard a whining behind them and then the low howl which told them that their track had been discovered and that they would certainly be followed. But by the time the wolves reached the waterside, where they caught their first sight of the men they were tracking, the two

shanty men had reached the firm ice and were skating in earnest.

Fortunately for them there were a few hundred yards of thin ice to be crossed, which almost, but not quite, held up the wolves, and by its sharp edges wounded and hindered them greatly. Otherwise they would have caught up with the men, and probably have overpowered them before they had gone half a mile.

As it was they had almost overtaken them before they had covered the first half of their four-mile race. Neither of the men was a hunter and this was their first experience with wolves. But by mutual agreement they adopted the very best tactics possible, and when their pursuers came too near to them, wheeled sharply to one side. As the smooth ice afforded no grip to their claws, the wolves could not turn or stop suddenly, but generally shot forward and madly several stumbles, and sometimes some-
times before getting on to the fresh track.

In this manner the skaters avoided the brutes for some time, and would probably have reached their destination but for an unfortunate suggestion of the younger man, that they would be more likely to tire out the wolves if they separated. In accordance with this plan, they wheeled in different directions at the end of an island they were approaching.

As the elder man reached the other end of this wooded island he saw before him the sparks which issued from the huge chimney of the shanty he was searching for. Putting on all of his remaining strength he spurred on to where the cook's path led from the shanty to the water hole. There, the two big, gray timber wolves which had elected to follow him turned tail and with a parting yelp turned in their tracks.

By some curious accident the poor fel-

low stumbled as he was approaching the low door of the shanty and fell, breaking his right leg just below the knee. The pain and the previous exertion were too much for his overstrained nerves, and it was upward of an hour before the shantymen could recover him from the swoon into which he fell as he was carried inside.

When consciousness returned his first question was for his companion, whom he had last seen as he skated around the little island in the lake. As soon as the men could be made to understand the situation, a dozen of them started out to see what had befallen the other traveler.

Within 200 yards of their winter home they found the blood-stained spot where the unfortunate young fellow had been attacked in front by the two brutes which had chased his friend. In the lightly falling snow could be read the whole story of his destruction. His boots and skates and a few fragments of clothing were all the tangible signs of the tragedy left by the wolves.

Happily for the injured man, a shanty missionary on his rounds reached the island where he lay that same night, and being a medical man also was able to set his leg with some degree of satisfaction. Strangely enough, as it happened, the clergyman had taken with him, as his diversion for the trip, an uncle of the man devoted on the ice, who was greatly attached to his nephew and was conveying to him, a substantial token of his regard in hard cash as a Christmas present.

PRINCE HENRY COMING AGAIN.

Prince Henry of Prussia, according to Berlin newspapers, will revisit the United States in 1904 to attend the St. Louis Exposition and unveil the veterans' monument in Philadelphia.

YAWNING--THE NEW CURE FOR TROUBLESOME HICCOUGHING

YAWNING is about the best cure I know of for the hiccoughs," said an observant man, "and I have stumbled on the truth quite by accident. It was proved in my case a sure cure, and by reflection I am convinced that it is a perfectly logical result, a result explainable, too, on physical grounds.

"All kinds of remedies are resorted to by men who suffer periodically with hiccoughs," like stopping the ears and drinking a glass of water slowly and without a stop, or by holding the breath, or counting, or thinking intently on some subject, and in many other ways. I have tried all of these remedies, and at times have been fairly successful in checking the hiccoughs. Again, I have seen each one of these remedies fail. In my own experience, so far as these remedies are concerned drinking a glass of water slowly and without breathing is the most satisfactory. But it is torturing enough. On the other hand, the yawn is not only efficacious, but it is absolutely without any of the torturing features. There is, as I said before, probably a good physical reason for the yawn being a good remedy for the hiccoughs.

"The hiccoughs is described as being a modified respiratory movement, a spasmodic inspiration, consisting of a contraction of the diaphragm, accompanied with closure of the glottis, so that further entrance of air is prevented. The impulse of the column of air entering and striking upon the closed glottis produces the sound peculiar to the ailment. It is reasonable to assume that anything that would relieve the contracted state of the diaphragm and would reopen the closed glottis, or partially

open it, so the air could enter in a normal way, would completely relieve the situation. It would seem that the yawn, which is nothing but a deep, long breath, would bring about this result. While the yawn is supposed to be an involuntary movement, due to drowsiness, it is yet a fact that a man can yawn at pleasure. This being true, it is easily within a man's power to cure the hiccoughs by resorting to the very simple practice of yawning. Of course, I cannot say that in all cases of hiccoughs the yawn will prove a good remedy. But I believe in all ordinary cases, where the annoyance is not aggravated, the yawn will do the work. At any rate, my own experience has convinced me of the fact, and, besides, there are the physical conditions to which I have referred."

A STRANGE FREAK.

A STRANGE freak, and one that is apt to prove intrinsically valuable, is in the possession of Luther W. Charlton, of this city.

An ordinary feather bed has been in the possession of his family for over seventy years, and has provided a soft resting place during the sleeping hours for several generations. The wife of Mr. Charlton recently learned that the feathers would be more useful if converted into pillows, and the ticking was opened with a view to that disposition of the contents. The inside of the ticking, when it came to view was found to be covered with the finest down feathers, which adhered to the cloth as though woven into it. The appearance was that of a very fine heavy drab plush, the feathers having lost their original whiteness. Every inch inside of the ticking was in this condition. A piece of this marvelous fabric, three feet square, is to be tendered to the National Museum.