

ODDS AND ENDS OF INTEREST FROM FAR AND NEAR

CARNEGIE LIBRARY AT STRATFORD



MARIE CORELLI, the distinguished authoress, though she is a lover of other books besides her own, still combated the erection of this fine library building at Stratford-on-Avon with all her literary and combative talent. The library was presented to the town by Andrew Car-

negie, and she opposed its introduction as a resident of the town and a Shakespeare lover, thinking that no other man should have a memorial in the place save the immortal bard. Her arguments were biting and able, being literature as well, but they did not prevail.

RIVER OF ICE

OF THE remnants of the great ice age the glaciers of Switzerland are the most familiar examples. These great, slow moving ice fields have been pictured in various ways,



but the accompanying illustration is unique in several respects. The point of view of the camera lends to the glacier the appearance of a great stream or river of ice. The movement of the ice flow is somewhat less than that of a similar body of water, or but a few inches a year.

HISTORIC BABY BOTTLES

Bottles for babies date back to remote antiquity. Most people are of the opinion that feeding bottles for babies must be an invention of modern times. According to Professor Mosby, however, this is not the case. This gentleman, who was lecturing recently before an antiquarian society, stated that it was the custom among the Greeks for the nurses to carry a sponge full of honey in a small pot to keep the children from crying. The professor went on to say that there are two Greek vases in the British museum, dating from 700 B. C., which closely resemble the feeding bottles used subsequently by the Romans. In the old Roman cemetery of St. Sepulchre, Canterbury, a feeding bottle of bright red polished ware was dug up in 1861, and Professor Mosby came to the conclusion that this bottle must have been buried with the little Roman child to whose wants it had administered during the child's lifetime.

To raise money for the French treasury the municipal council of La Courneuve proposes that a tax should be levied on every dress a woman possesses over and above one for every-day wear and one for Sundays and fete days.

In France's navy there are forty-five admirals to 1,760 officers and 41,536 men. In the army there are 330 generals to 21,488 officers and 546,000 men, while the marines have seventeen generals to 2,105 officers and 52,395 men.

CHRISTMAS CARD FOR THE BLIND



YOU might study this inscription for a long while without learning what it meant. It is odd, to say the least, but when it is stated that it is a Christmas card it takes on a peculiar value. It is one of the holiday tokens in "points," issued by a local

newspaper published in England. It is intended to be read by the sympathetic fingers of the blind, who are educated to the system of the distinguished Frenchman. To those who have eyes and know the value of these points and dots in the reproduction the message is just as clear.

CAMEO CARVING

The art of cameo carving is an exceedingly difficult one and one which requires an eye almost like a microscope and a very delicate touch. The carver must be an artist in soul and as skilled a craftsman as a watchmaker. He must know how to model and draw and he must have a knowledge of chemistry so as to remove offending spots. All the tools used by the cameo carver are but a handful. The little pointed instruments resemble those used by a dentist, and indeed it was from the cameo carver's kit that the dentists got many of their ideas when the tools they now use first came to be manufactured. The drills vary in thickness according to the portion of the design or figure to be executed; some are the size of a fine cambric needle. The worker sits before a wheel turned by a pedal; the tools occupy a small corner of the table surface on which the worker's hand rests while he holds the shaped stone or shell beneath the needle-like drill. The work is very exacting. He can do only a few hours' work at a time as a usual thing, because of the tension upon his nerves.

The work is executed in relief on many kinds of hard or precious stones, but especially on the chalcidonic variety of quartz and on shells. The cameo cutter himself prefers onyx because of the dark and light layers which throw out in bold relief a white head against a black background. He evolves a picture by removing that portion of the white stratum remaining after the head has been completed. Sapphire blocks are used, as are carnelian, turquoise, amethyst and numerous precious stones. There is always a great danger of the latter breaking and their durability, too, is not great.

The business of college education is one of the greatest businesses of the country. The 426 colleges and universities, in which are enrolled 175,000 students, represent an invested capital of \$250,000,000 and give employment to 25,000 persons as teachers and officers.

Russia, with a population of 127,000,000, has only 18,334 physicians. In the United States, with a population of about 75,000,000, there are 120,000 physicians.

CHINESE EXECUTIONER

IN China executions are still carried on by the primitive method of severing the head from the body by means of a great sword. The operation is performed by a public execu-



tioner who from long experience does his work quickly, cutting off a head at a single blow. The executioner whose photograph is reproduced herewith has a record of more than 3000 heads to his credit or discredit.

NEW WEAPON OF WAR

A Chinese inventor has recently perfected a weapon which the mandarins at Peking think will cause terror in the hearts of the invaders, and an order has been issued for the manufacture of a large supply, to be distributed throughout the army. According to a description that appears in the Chinese papers this terrible weapon is a combination of spear and shovel. At one end of a pole there is a large, sharp spike, such as knights of mediæval times used to carry. At the other end there is a shovel, or spade, with a blade about eight inches wide, which can be used both as an trenching tool and as a weapon. It is especially handy in beheading prisoners, and all the Chinese soldier has to do is to stick the pike at one end of his pole through the body of his enemy and then turn around and cut off the head with the shovel. Instead of sending the inventor of this terrible weapon to The Hague to represent China at the peace conference the Empress Dowager rewarded him with a button of the second class.

PRIMITIVE AMERICAN RACES

The Tarahumare people, who live in the most inaccessible part of northern Mexico, are ignorant and primitive, many still living in caves. What villages they have are at altitudes of about 8000 feet above the sea level. They are a small and wiry people, with great powers of endurance. Their only food is "pinoli," or maize, parched and ground. They have a peculiar drink, called "teshuin," also produced from maize and manufactured with considerable ceremony, which tastes like a mixture of sour milk and turpentine. Their language is limited to about three hundred words. Their imperfect knowledge of numbers renders them unable to count beyond ten. Their religion seems to be a distorted and imperfect conception of Christian traditions mixed with some of their own ideas and superstitions.

ANCIENT STONE COFFIN

THE imposing marble mausoleum of the very wealthy man, which represents hundreds of thousands thrown to the vanity of death, is nothing more than a magnificent development of the stone "coffin." This at one time was an honor that did not fall to every man. It was just as much of a distinction as a costly tomb would



be today. Here is a fair sample of one, shaped hundreds of years ago. It contained the body and the heart of a mitred abbot of York. On a rough average forty-five thousand sovereigns pass over the Bank of England counters daily.

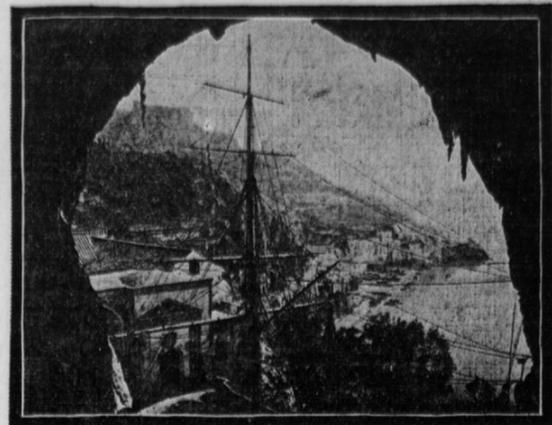
THE COSTLY BELL OF BURMAH

If one tried to put a price upon the huge bell of Burmah he might say it was worth \$100,000 in the coin of our land. This would be \$300,000 in the money value of the Buddhist. But its value is really priceless to these people for it is under the direct tutelage of Buddha, and they think it would be impossible for it to be taken from them. They tell of an attempt by the English in 1824, when Burmah was captured and invaded. The great bell was hoisted upon a wagon drawn by many elephants and oxen and driven down to the shore of the Irrawady. The bell was placed upon the deck of a vessel and the sails set, when the invisible hand of Buddha intervened and the bell slipped from the deck of the vessel and sank in the mud of the river. Long after the natives recovered it with almost superhuman effort and restored it to the sacred pavilion.

The bell was cast so many years ago that the natives say, "Thousands upon thousands of years in the time of yesterday was made the holy bell." When the bell was cast people came from miles around bringing their money and metals to the vast caldron. Amid the cries and chants to the god Buddha, the metals were flung into the caldron to be melted. In the frenzy of the religious enthusiasm the warriors wrenched their swords from their jeweled scabbards and flung them into the mass of metals already melting. Rich merchants and their wives, who had come thither in all their richest attire and costliest jewels, tore off bracelets, rings and irdles and flung them into the caldron. The poor added their mites of coins, tawdry ornaments, betrothal mementoes and love trinkets, and even the children with an exultation, their little understood gave their much prized toys of metal, doll goddesses and toy swords.

The czar has an income of \$1000 per hour, the sultan \$850, the emperor of Austria, \$500, the kaiser \$450, the king of the Belgians \$85, and the president of the United States \$7.50.

NATURAL PICTURE FRAME



THE shores of the Mediterranean abound in beautiful scenes where the beauty of nature is enhanced by the picturesque grouping of buildings and elaborate gardens. Herewith is reproduced one of the most beautiful of these scenes, framed perfectly in a natural frame of rock. By a curious chance the mouth of this opening in the rock is so formed that it includes a scene from within, a picture of perfect composition.

EARLIEST NEWSPAPER

The first daily newspaper was a manuscript letter written by salaried correspondents and forwarded by them every twenty-four hours from London to the provinces. That was in the days of the early Stuarts. During the commonwealth these London letters were printed in type and circulated in large numbers. Even so long ago as 1689 the law of libel was such as to be characterized by Judge Scroggs as making any newspaper publication illegal and tending to provoke a breach of the peace.

Every inhabitant of London eats 173 pounds of potatoes in a year. A Parisian consumes on an average but forty-nine pounds per annum.

NEW YORK'S SKY LINE

THE sky line of New York is, of course, absolutely unique among the cities of the world. The buildings are for the most part so crowded together and so high that an extended



view so far as the camera is concerned is virtually out of the question. The accompanying illustration is from a photograph taken from an elevation of more than three hundred feet.

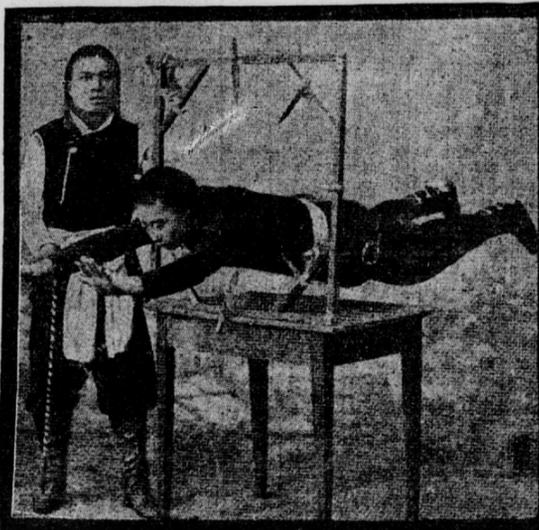
VALUABLE SHAWL

The Czaritzza has a shawl which she values very highly. It was sent her by the ladies of Orenburg, a town in Southeastern Russia. It reached her in a wooden box with silver hooks and hinges, the outside being embellished with designs, spears, turbans, whips, etc., on a ground of blue enamel, that being the color of the Cossack uniform. The shawl is about ten yards square, but it is so exquisitely fine that it can be passed through a ring, and when folded makes a small parcel of a few inches only.

The recent census of the natives in the Transvaal was taken with beads. Each headman was furnished with a number of beads of different colors, and twine on which to string them. A big black bead represented an adult married native, a big yellow bead a grownup single man, a big blue bead a married woman, and a white bead a single woman over fifteen years old. A small yellow bead stood for a boy and a small white bead for a girl.

The beer which is consumed throughout the world in a single year would make a lake six feet deep, three and three-quarter miles long, a mile wide, or 2319 acres in area. In this vast lake of beer we could easily drown all the English speaking people, to the number of 120,000,000, throughout the entire world.

EXTRAORDINARY JAPANESE TRICK



Religious devotees in the east, in subjugating the flesh, lie for hours on the rigid, upturned points of hundreds of nails, which form a bed of torture and upon which their nude bodies are imposed. Eastern jugglers do some things which surpass the feats of the holy men. Modern science cannot explain some of them, and the performers

jealously guard the secret. Here is one of the most astonishing acts. After a run of several feet a man jumps and lands on a collection of sharp daggers, as shown in the photograph. There is not the slightest sign of cut or abrasion on his feet as he steps on the ground again, though examination shows that the daggers are almost needle pointed.

THE NEW NIAGARA

Although the Falls of Niagara have held a pre-eminent position for years their fame, or, rather, their prece-



dence among the great falls of the world has passed. The Falls of the Zambesi must hereafter be considered first. Some idea of the proportions of these falls may be had from the statement that they are three times the size of Niagara. The accompanying photograph shows the rush of the water below the falls, which is of much greater volume and swiftness than the famous whirlpool rapids of Niagara. This chasm is soon to be spanned by a bridge which will be the highest in the world.

The largest stone ever quarried came from a granite ledge in Maine to serve as one of the columns to support the dome of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The stone was 64 feet in length, 8 1/2 feet thick and 7 feet wide, its weight being 310 tons.

NEST IN A SKULL



IT was by mere chance that a learned scientist belonging to the Smithsonian institute in Washington left a human skull on a shelf near a window which had a broken pane. A disk shaped piece of the back part of the gruesome relic had been neatly saved out for some purpose not explained, and a wren, flying in through the broken window, thought that it was an excellent place to build a nest. With straw

and other odds and ends she filled a portion of the cavity within the grinning skull and then proceeded to fulfill the duties of maternity by laying a fine "clutch." Unfortunately for her enterprise, the scientist discovered what was going on, and took away the skull and its contents, being careful not to disturb the latter in any way. At the present time they are on exhibition in the children's room in the Smithsonian institution.