Greatest "Zoo" in the World.

At last New York is to have a zoological garden in keeping with her position among the great cities of the world. It will be the largest and most complete in existence. The vaunted gardens of the European capitals will pale into insignificance by comparison. The final plans, says the New York Herald, have been submitted to the Park Board by Professor Henry F. Osborn, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the New York Zoological Society, and as soon as the necessary preliminary arrangements have been made the active work will begin.

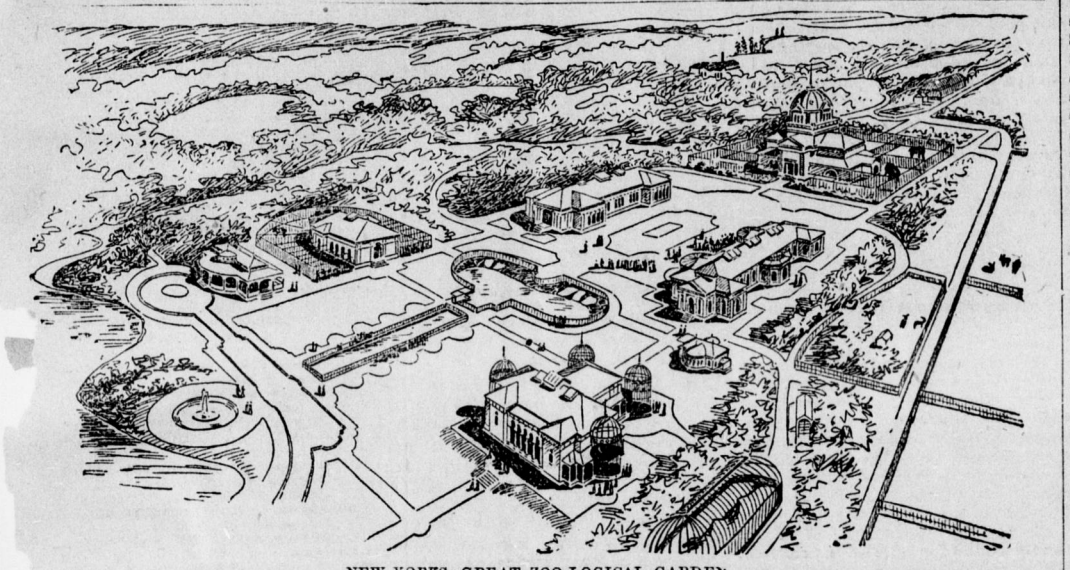
After eight months of careful study of the adopted site in Bronx Park, and after a systematic examination of the large European zoological gardens, Director William T. Hornady submitted to the Zoological Society a preliminary plan for the development of the garden, which was reproduced in the Herald at the time. This plan was approved by the Executive Committee, whose Chairman has been one of the most active promoters of the zoological garden scheme, on a broad scale, and the final plan, now matured, is merely a careful elaboration of Mr. Hornady's first scheme. The design of the central glade, formed by the six larger buildings, is the work of Hein & La Farge, architects, and for the rest of the plan Director Hornady and Charles N. Lowrie, landscape architect, are responsible.

a space of fifty by 250 feet in extent, adjoining the house. This space, which will be reached by an overhead bridge, so as to allow all spectators to freely pass between it and the cage, will be enclosed by a high fence of wire netting, terminating at the top with an inwardly curved projection of metal, which will prevent the nimble climbers from getting outside.

The monkeys will have practically no restrictions on their natural propensities, for this bridge and extended tree covered play-ground will enable them to graduated from the restricted kindergarten cage to the higher branches that will offer full scope to their greatest possibilities. Here they can hide in the underbrush, scamper over rocks, ascend the trees, leap from limb to limb, sport amid the foliage and even form the monkey span of life by joining claws to feet and tail in one long chain of apish links, and so swing from a projecting branch to a tree beyond, over an intervening stream, as travelers say they do in their native wilds.

Nor will the larger beasts be unduly restricted. The elephants will have attached to their imposing home, measuring 78 by 144 feet, eight paved yards, each 100 by 150 feet, and in these yards, besides a swimming tank, will be great trees, in the shade of which the animals can stand as in the jungles of Asia and Africa.

The lion will be in equally great



NEW YORKS, GREAT ZOO LOGICAL GARDEN.
In the distance are great drives for bison and deer, forests for monkeys and ponds for beaver—in all 261 acres, by far the greates "Zoo" in the world.)

This vista promises to combine picturesque natural beauties with every possible device in establishing the comfort of the captive animals. No zoological garden in the world offers such freedom to its inmates. The buffalo will roam at will over a great expanse of natural land, as untrammelled as though grazing upon his native prairie. The monkey will enjoy the freedom of his own jungle. Lions and elephants will not be confined in closed cages. Birds, beasts and fishes of every variety will be made to feel perfectly at home.

And now a few words about the extent of this big animal park. Aside from the natural beauties of the location, which compare favorably with those of any similar institution in the world; aside from the advancement which the plans show in the matter of caring for the animals, aside from the value of the collection, which we can at present only hopefully anticipate, aside from all this, the project must excite universal admiration by reason of its very size.

Washington's Zoological Garden comprises 168 acres, but all of it is not available. The Berlin gardens have sixty acres, Paris, fifty acres; Hamburg, thirty-five acres, and London and Vienna, thirty acres each. It will readily be seen that on comparison with these New York's monster zoo, with its 261 acres of land, must stand as the monster of the world.

The bird house, on an unshaded terrace, with ample air and light, a one story building of brick and iron—is planned to afford both within and without a great amount of cage room for its occupants. The interior of the aviary, whose ground plan is T shaped, will have 330 lineal feet of cage room, on a large portion of which cages will stand in three tiers. There will also be a huge water tank for diving birds.

The exterior of the building will not be less interesting than the interior, for here there will be 332 lineal feet of cages for hawks, owls and such like hardy perching birds. Then there will be six large open wire dome cages, and, most attractive of all, a huge wire cage 150 feet long, seventy-five feet wide and fifty feet high, in which will be pools of water, gravel, grass, rocks, shrubs, bushes and great trees. In this great cage the birds, hardly realizing their captivity, may dive and swim, run and fly to their hearts' content, and, with food to be obtained without the discomforts of early rising, may have all the enjoyment that ever fell to the fortune of lucky birds.

As with the birds, so with the monkeys, whose home of pleasing architecture will be in keeping with the aviary and the others of the six large buildings that will adorn the central glade. The monkeys will have ample cage room in the direct path of sun and air. The most interesting part of the monkey cage will be the great open air enclosure, which is planned to occupy

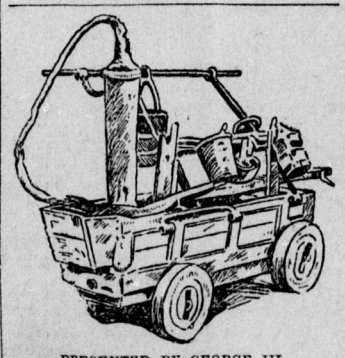
luck. There will be no restless and persistent tramping up and down behind the bars of a ten foot cage, no snarling and ill tempered howling. They will be housed in a handsome building, 87x263 feet in size, and they will be almost as greatly favored as the elephant. In outdoor cages, 45 feet wide and 200 feet long, they will have ample room for muscular development.

And here comes a unique suggestion from the director of the Zoological Park, for while three sides of these cages are open, he proposes that the fourth side shall be a painted landscape that will in the closest detail present an exact counterpart of the lions' surroundings in their wildest state. Any lion with a well developed imagination will be in a position to sit upon his haunches, gaze fondly at the counterfeit distance of wild jungle and fancy himself once more back among the old folks at home.

The buffaloes will be highly favored in the matter of liberty, for they will have a range of twenty acres over which they may gallop. Around this range, on higher ground, will be a walk, from which an unobstructed view of the buffalo grounds will be presented. This is significant in itself. The American bison is rapidly becoming extinct, and the few herds of a once noble race that are left are being carefully guarded and nurtured.

Fire-Tub Over a Century Old.

Here is a picture of the fire-tub that George III. presented to his loyal subjects of Shelburne, N. S., in 1795. This was in the days when the town was a populous and thriving place. Half the royalists who left Boston during the Revolution built houses in Shelburne, and of course the King



PRESENTED BY GEORGE III.

could not see such loyal subjects suffer for lack of proper protection against fire. The tub is still in a fair state of preservation.

Massachusetts convicts are getting fastidious. Not content with Boston baked beans for breakfast every day they have just sent in a petition for custard pie every Sunday.

CHAMBERMAIDS WITH MUSTACHES.

A Remarkable Feature of Hotel Life in Cairo, Egypt.

Although the two gentlemen from Cairo here portrayed look like Oriental dignitaries or high priests they are really Egyptian chambermaids. They are a remarkable feature of hotel life in Cairo.

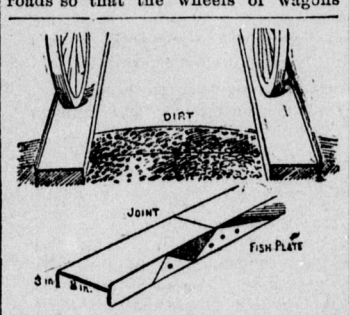
TWO QUEER CHAMBERMAIDS.

The first time one needs a chambermaid in the latter place and finds the call answered by a coal black man six feet four inches high, in high cap and narrow white gown, one is surprised and sometimes worried. Sometimes these ebon chambermaids answer a call in pairs, They are model servants, and keep the rooms of the hotels where they are employed exquisitely neat.

STEEL ROADWAYS A SUCCESS.

The Idea of Building Tracks For Trucks Takes Practical Shape.

For the first time there has been carried into practical operation a plan for the improvement of public roads that has heretofore been regarded merely as an interesting theory that would never rise to the region of fact. The plan is to lay steel tracks along our roads so that the wheels of wagons



SECTION OF A STEEL ROADWAY.

may run on a smooth surface instead of on the rough and soggy path over which for a great part of the year horses are compelled to flounder dragging heavy loads. The results of experiments by two prominent engineers are here given. One series of experiments, made by Mr. Abel Bliss, of New Lenox, Ill., is particularly interesting, as will be seen from the following statement of Mr. Bliss:

"I have laid about 100 feet of steel road in the public highway near my home at New Lenox, Ill. The road was first graded in proper shape. The rails are of steel, one-quarter of an inch thick, eight inches wide, wide a downward flange of three inches on either side and an upward flange of one inch on the outer edge to keep the wheels on. These rails were laid on the crown of the grade and pressed into the soil to the depth of the flange or until the soil supported the rail. The downward flanges prevent the soil from being pressed away from the rail and hold it there, making a firm foundation, so that no ties are necessary on which to rest the rails. These rails are made continuous by the fastening of the ends together with fishplates.

"A mile of road requires about sixty tons of steel, which can be produced in quantities for $1800 or less. One cubic yard of gravel is required to the rod."

In Texas little Miss Fite, of Moran, wants to pick cotton against little Miss Ward, of Meridan. Both are six years old, and they weigh forty-eight and forty-three pounds, respectively.

Children's Column

Bobby's Three-Inch Smile.

Sister measured my grin one day;
Took the ruler and me,
Counted the inches all the way—
One and two and three.
"Oh you're a Cheshire cat," said she.
Father said, "That's no sin."
Then he nodded and smiled at me—
Smiled at my three-inch grin.
Brother suggested I ought to begin
Trying to trim it down.
Mother said, "Better a three-inch grin
Than a little half-inch frown."
—Boston Traveler.

After the North Pole.

If the North Pole is not discovered in 1898 it will not be because brave explorers have ceased to be interested in it. Some time ago we told you about Lieutenant Peary's proposed expedition, how he will establish two or three Eskimo stations in the far north which will be in the nature of stepping stones to the pole. From the last one he will make a dash with a sledge and dogs and only one or two companions, and he hopes to discover the pole and get safely back to his last station during the summer. But Peary is not the only man who will seek the "farthest north." Captain Sverdrup, who commanded Nansen's famous ship, the Fram, in the recent expedition, will sail away in 1898 with sixteen men and several hundred sledge dogs. He will get as far north as he can in the ship and then try to cross the vast stretches of ice on sleds. The Norwegian government has furnished the money for fitting the ship, and Captain Sverdrup feels sure that he can reach the pole.—Chicago Record.

Saved His Life by a Jest.

Amelia Wofford tells of "The Court Jesters of England" in St. Nicholas. The author says of one of them:

Archee Armstrong was the beloved jester of King James VI of Scotland, afterwards James I of England, and this is the traditional story of their introduction:

"One day a shepherd with the carcass of a sheep upon his shoulders was tracked to his cottage on the moorlands by the officers of justice. In the cottage they found a vacant-faced lad, rocking a cradle with more attention than a boy is accustomed to give that duty; this, however, did not arouse their suspicions. They searched the cottage thoroughly, but failed to discover the sheep. They were about to depart, when one of their number accidentally looked into the cradle, and—the stolen sheep lay there! The lad, who was supposed to be the thief, was brought before King James VI of Scotland. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to die. He began to plead with the king. He was a poor, ignorant fellow, he said; he had heard of the Bible and would like to read it through before he died. Would the king respite him until he did so. The king readily gave his consent, whereupon the culprit immediately said: 'Then hang me if I ever read a word o't, as lang as my een are open.'

The witty reply captured the king. He pardoned the prisoner, and took him into his service as jester. In this capacity Archee was soon a prime favorite.

Carberry's Christmas.

Last Christmas there was a great surprise in the little town of Carberry. For years and years—ever since the boys and girls could remember—there had been a public celebration in the town hall, with a huge Christmas tree lighted from top to bottom with candles and bright with all sorts of presents for the boys and girls of the village. Usually old Captain Conklin in his big buffalo overcoat, which was buckled tight with a string of sleigh bells, acted as Santa Claus and kept everyone laughing and expectant as he passed out the gifts, reading off the names one by one in a big, hearty voice.

But last year it was all different, so different, indeed, that Carberry is going to try the same kind of celebration again this winter. And it was quite unique enough to furnish ideas for any of our inventive boys and girls who wish to get up something new and striking for this year's Christmas entertainment.

You see old Captain Conklin was taken sick early in the winter and had to go south, and a Christmas tree without Santa Claus would have been no celebration at all. So the principal of the Carberry school and some of the older pupils got together and discussed the situation. As a result they were appointed a committee on arrangements for the celebration, it being understood that they were to have the entire work of decorating the hall and of arranging the presents.

From that time on a dense cloud of secrecy hung over the school. The teacher and his little band of helpers—which included about a dozen of the older boys and girls—held a meeting early every night at which the details of the great plan were discussed. By day they all went around with wise glances at one another and frequent mysterious conversations, until the younger folk of the town were all but wild with curiosity. It was also the topic of conversation among the older folk, for they were not allowed to know anything about it either. Mysterious bundles of all sizes and shapes were carried into the hall, the windows of which had previously been closely curtained, so that no prying eyes could peep inside and discover the secret. Two weeks before Christmas six of the prettiest little girls in school, all of about the same size, were chosen for some mysterious purpose, and they were at once enveloped in the general cloak of secrecy.

Christmas eve arrived bright and crisp and cold. At 7 o'clock the doors of the town hall were opened and a crowd of boys and girls, who had been waiting outside for an hour or more, surged in and filled the front seats. But as yet there was little to be seen for a big curtain covered the entire front of the hall, shutting out all view of the stage. The members of the committee bustled about mysteriously, ran in with covered bundles, and out again, shadows flitted across the curtain, and there were occasional smothered bursts of laughter, at which all of the younger children would stand on their tip-toes and fairly shriek with anticipation. But there was one sound that was wholly unexplainable and which set every one to guessing and wondering. It was a slight squeaking noise which no one had ever heard before in connection with a Christmas celebration.

Before 8 o'clock every seat in the house was filled and a large number of men and boys were standing around the stove and lined up close to the wall. There was only a moment's delay, and then from somewhere behind the curtain came the voices of the six little girls singing a Christmas carol. Just as they reached the last verse the curtain began to rise slowly and their voices were drowned out in a wild burst of applause. Indeed, the audience was on its feet with craning necks and eager eyes trying to take in every detail of the brilliant display.

"A wheel, a wheel!" cried little Susie Jenkins, her shrill voice sounding above the roar of applause.

And a wheel it was—a Ferris wheel which any one would have recognized in an instant. It occupied the very centre of the big stage, and it was slowly turning round and round. The cars were loaded full of gifts with dolls for conductors. There was candy and crockery, toys jack-knives, skates, new red mittens, caps, books, and almost everything else you could think of. Every car was blazing with light from several wax candles, and the rim of the wheel, the supports and the spokes were festooned with strings of popcorn and twined with ribbons and evergreen. Besides that the stage was beautifully decorated.

But another surprise was in store. Up from behind the wheel stepped Jack Frost, Santa Claus' son, dressed in natty knee breeches and coat, and wearing a powdered wig of the style of the last century. Every one recognized him at once as Captain Conklin's nephew, who was one of the brightest boys in the Carberry school. It was some time before he could speak owing to the cheering, and then he told the audience that this new Ferris wheel was invented in Santa Claus' workshop, and that Santa Claus had placed the gifts in the cars. After that there were a number of songs and recitations, during all of which the wonderful wheel turned round and round, and the doll conductors leaned out of the windows to see that the machinery was in good working order. Of course the exercises were very interesting, but I am sorry to say that they were frequently interrupted by "ohs" and "ahs," and many other whispered exclamations from the front rows.

At last Jack Frost arose and ordered the wheel to stop. The six little girls bounded forward and the distribution of the presents began, and continued until the great wheel was empty, and every one in the hall was happy.

Do you wonder that the folks of Carberry are going to have the same kind of a celebration this year?

The Ferris wheel was easily made by three of the boys of Carberry. They took two old carriage wheels and cut away parts of the spokes, and fastened them together on a central axis running through the hubs. The cars were made of large pasteboard shoe boxes obtained from one of the stores. These boxes were about thirty inches long by ten inches high by fourteen inches wide. Doors and windows were cut in them, and they were suspended to the wheels so that they would turn easily on their pivots. The wheels were then supported by a light framework of wood and provided with a crank at the back side. This completed the framework. It was fun for the committee to meet night after night and decorate the wheel with colored paper pasted on the boxes, and with evergreens and popcorn strings. Candles were fitted everywhere there was room for them, and then the cars were filled up with presents, care being taken to load them so that they would swing easily and without tipping. During the celebration a boy turned the crank that kept the wheel going.

The whole wheel only cost a few dollars, and any of our boys who are clever with a hammer and saw could make one like it. For a Christmas surprise it cannot be excelled, especially if the people who are to attend the celebration expect an old-fashioned Christmas tree. It may be used either for a home gathering or for a public celebration.

HELPS FOR HOUSEWIVES.

To Make Melted Butter.

Break up a quarter of a pound of butter into small pieces, put it into a saucepan, and dredge over with a tablespoonful of flour; then add one wineglassful of cold water and a seasoning of salt. Stir regularly one way until the whole of the ingredients are melted and amalgamated. Let them just come to a boil; and then serve.

Spots on Furniture.

To remove spots from furniture rub well with sweet oil and turpentine, then wash with warm soapsuds and polish with crude oil. For a good polish for old furniture, try the following: Put equal parts of kerosene and sweet oil in a large bottle and shake well; then apply with a flannel cloth, rubbing the oil in well. It can be used on either oiled or varnished surfaces.

Preserving Delicate Colors.

The following simple formula, given by the Society of Arts, is for cleaning fabrics without changing their color: Grate raw potatoes over clear water, in the proportion of two fair-sized potatoes to a pint. When the last bit of fine pulp has dropped into the water, strain the mixture through a coarse sieve into another vessel holding the same amount of clear water, and let the second liquid stand till thoroughly settled. Pour off the clearer part to be kept for use. Rub or sponge the soiled fabrics with the potato water, wash in clean water, dry and iron. The thick sediment can be kept and used for cleaning thick material like carpets and heavy cloth.

Lemons and Oranges.

It is not generally known that the juice of lemons or oranges treated like any other fruit juices will make a clear jelly without gelatine if a pound and a quarter of granulated sugar is allowed for each pint. Ripe, juicy fruit should be chosen, and the sugar and juice boiled together for fifteen minutes; at the end of this time take out a little on a saucer, put in a cool place, and if it shows signs of setting it is done. Some of the most perfect oranges or lemons should be picked out, and, after cutting off the blossom end carefully, the contents scooped out (of course saving the juice), the shell may be preserved whole and filled with the jelly made as directed above. As the shells are emptied they must be thrown into cold water, then simmered until transparent in alum and water, in the proportion of two teaspoons of alum to a quart of water; they are then to be put in a pan of cold water once more; this changed every three hours for three times; then to stand over night in cold water. In the morning they are to be covered with boiling water, boiled gently for an hour, then drained and weighed. To every pound of these shells allow a pound of sugar and one-half pint of water; boil and skim; add to this the juice saved when scooping out; then put the shells in and simmer until tender and clear, when they are to be spread separately on flat dishes and they and the syrup allowed to stand, carefully covered for two days. After these shells are filled with the jelly they are to be put, the open end downward, into glass jars, the syrup poured over and the tops screwed on. The sugar will insure the keeping. The jelly should not be made until the shells are ready, as it must be poured while liquid.

Recipes.

Fried Sweetbreads—Cut a sufficiency of sweetbreads into long slices and paint them over with yolk of egg. Strew each slice with a seasoning of pepper, salt and bread crumbs and fry in butter. Garnish with crisped butter and thin rolls of toasted bacon.

Haricot Bean Balls—Wash one pint of cooked beans through a sieve; put the pulp into a basin, break two eggs into it and beat up with one beans; add four tablespoonfuls of bread crumbs, the same of finely chopped fat bacon, saltspoonful of pepper and tablespoonful of minced parsley; roll the mixture into balls, flour them, dip in egg and bread crumbs and fry in deep hot fat.

Coffee Jelly—Coffee makes an excellent jelly. Soak one package of gelatine in one pint of cold water, then pour over it one quart of boiling water, add one pint of granulated sugar, the same amount of very strong coffee, and one teaspoonful of brandy. Strain this into a ring mould and put in a cold place. When serving, fill the centre with whipped cream, sweetened, also put the cream around the outside.

Stewed Cucumbers on Toast—Pare three good-sized cucumbers and cut into quarters lengthwise. Slice thin and put in granite saucepan, with one tablespoonful of boiling water; cover closely; they will cook tender in twelve minutes and look transparent. When about half done add one tablespoonful of butter and a saltspoonful of salt, a shake or two of white pepper. Just before serving add three tablespoonfuls of sweet cream, and spread on slices of toasted bread. This is a delicate, delicious breakfast dish, and quickly prepared.

Shoulder of Veal a la Francaise—Get a shoulder with about two pounds of meat on it. Cut the veal in square mouthfuls and parboil them. Put the bone and trimmings in one-half pint water and stew slowly to make the gravy. Place the squares of meat in a baking dish; season with one-half teaspoon of salt, one-eighth teaspoon cayenne pepper, one-eighth teaspoon mace, one-eighth teaspoon nutmeg and the grated rind of the lemon left from luncheon. Strain the gravy, pour in dish, sprinkle over one-half cup bread crumbs, with tiny dots of butter, and bake a delicate brown.