



MATINEE GIRLS' FAVORITE.

Mr. John Drew immediately he arrives in Chicago plunging headlong in social dissipation of the small and early type, and his hosts are among the sweetest set who delight in the society of players, writes Amy Leslie in Chicago News. The sacrifice of Mr. Drew's mustache is akin to disaster, for the expense of Mr. Drew's visage without the adornment usual is something to be gone over studiously and declared as monotonous as a restricted political ward. Still, his Carvel demanded it, and should John's adorably drooping Du Maurier mustache stand in the way of his art and gate receipts? No! It is all right until Mr. Drew rips off his carefully folded Carvel stock and brown George and substitutes a sleek coiffure, a standing collar and neck for his neckwear, a perfect fitting frock coat, a cane and a polished tile—then the Drew mus-



JOHN DREW.

tache rises like a ghost and proclaims its right to be recognized as a lost chord in the Drew social symphony. Girls, romantic, pretty, cuddling girls, refuse to adore the Carvel of Mr. Drew and lament his downfall into the pedantic, booky line of work. They go and grieve for the absence of Mr. Drew's expected languor in the love scenes, his quiet humors and elegant vest; they rise in swarms and ask whether they have been mistaken all these three long years their proper guardians have permitted them the theater or whether Mr. Drew is the only one who is mistaken. There is a terrible blunder somewhere and the matinee girl is the sufferer and she wants redress even if she has to ask her money back and wait until John buys a real Haddon Chambers comedy or rescues Fitch from comatose obscurity. To behold this ambitious, whiskerless Drew lambasting about with burly arms, pitching into his love scenes like a schoolboy after a widow, jars on the

MRS. CARTER'S FIVE PLAYS.



MRS. CARTER'S LATEST FIGURE.

Mrs. Leslie Carter has at least five plays which she is ready to produce at moment. One, "The Red Mouse," is writing for her

IN THE ODD CORNER.

QUEER AND CURIOUS THINGS AND EVENTS.

Karens of Upper Burma Delay Their Weddings and Funerals Until They Can Celebrate Twenty or Thirty of Them at Once—American Crocodile.

Snowflakes.
Out of the bosom of the air,
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken.
Over the woodlands, brown and bare,
Over the harvest fields forsaken,
Silent, and soft, and slow,
Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take
Suddenly shape in some divine expression,
Even as the troubled heart doth make
In the white countenance confession,
The troubled sky reveals
The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,
Slowly, in silent syllables recorded;
This is the secret of despair,
Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,
Now whispered and revealed
To wood and field.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

The American Crocodile.

A writer, George A. West, describes in the Bulletin of the Wisconsin Natural History society substantially as follows his experiences with the American crocodile: "A true crocodile, Crocodylus Americanus," he says, "is found only in Florida," and it is there restricted to an area not exceeding fifteen square miles. A colony was found in Indian creek, about six miles north of Miami, and others in two unnamed creeks, about half a mile apart, and extending back from Black Water bay four or five miles to the Everglades. His native guides, who were familiar with every foot of Southern Florida, informed him that the crocodile lived in only these two locations and that no alligator lived within several miles of their abodes. The animal was found inhabiting only brackish water, not streams of fresh water and mud, as they are claimed to be by most writers. Their homes were in clear water; their sunning beds on the highest and driest banks they could find, from which every particle of earth was invariably cleared away, leaving the white, clean coral for a bed. Their places of retreat were caves in the coral, never muddy bottoms, like those of alligators." The author then describes his difficulties in getting near them on account of their extreme wildness, and his inability to attract them by suspending a wounded peican from an overhanging limb to within a few feet of the water. He says most writers credit them with depending principally on their sense of hearing and smell, but that he is convinced of the keenness of their sight, that while watching them from a tree on the edge of a pool that they invariably alighted though he was as still as possible, stopped opposite where he was and fixed their eyes upon him. Also, that sometimes they would row over one lying in the bottom of a stream, which would remain perfectly motionless until it was looked down at, when it would dart away with lightning speed. Contrary to the common idea, they do not use their tails in striking, but strike side blows with their heads. When attacked they hiss like a serpent and emit a strong odor of musk from glands located in the lower part of the jaw. They are of a drab or lead color on the back, shading into a white below, and grow to a length of about sixteen feet. The dermal armor he found to be quite deficient in bony plates, so far as the neck was concerned, allowing for greater freedom of the head than is generally the case with this family. The interesting article concludes with a description of the teeth, brain and other anatomical characters.

Theatrical Gossip.

Mme. Modjeska is being very cordially received in the southern states. Isabelle Irving has been cast for the leading role in Charles Frohman's production of "To Have and to Hold."

The Roger Brothers' receipts for four weeks in Chicago were very nearly \$56,000.

Joe Welch, the Yiddish dialect monologist of the varieties, is talked of as a next season star in a play called "A Lucky Stroke."

Julia Marloweis to follow her impersonation of Mary Tudor by appearing as the heroine of Ronald Macdonald's "The Sword of the King."

Walter Jones and William Burress will star early next season in a burlesque entitled "Those Billionaires," by W. J. Thorald and Ben Hammerstein.

John E. Keller denies a report that he is to be seen in the varieties, and adds that he intends to try again with Charles Klein's play of "The Cipher-Code."

Blanche Bates, Edwin Abeles, Frank Carlisle, Campbell Gollan, Margaret Robinson, Grace Elliston, and Rosi Synder will be in the cast of Paul M. Potter's "Under Two Flags."

Prominent theatrical managers in New York are arranging for a benefit in the interest of Mme. Janauschek the famous actress, who is now almost destitute and unable to move a muscle on account of a paralytic stroke.

William T. Prince is seriously of the opinion that his establishment of a School of Playwriting should diminish that pest of a manager's life—the overwhelming burden of unskilled plays.

Joseph Jefferson has paid more than \$50,000, it is said, for property at West Palm Beach, Fla., where it is intended to build a \$100,000 hotel. Several prominent Florida men are interested in the scheme.

George Alexander has a new play by C. Haddon Chambers, called "The Awakening," and it is said that he had to obtain permission to use the title from Estelle Burney, the author of a drama of similar name.

Burial Weddings.

The Karens, of Upper Burma, not only delay their weddings till they can celebrate 20 or 30 at once, but make the same occasion serve for their funerals as well. When a man dies, says Answers, his body is cremated and the ashes are kept until the time for the formal funeral. When a bad harvest or a prolonged rainy season occasions the need of a little excitement, and some enthusiast arranges a burial-wedding, the ashes are arranged along a low, narrow platform, while the men stand on one side, the women on the other. There are no mourners, for the dead man have been forgotten during the convenient interval, and the dresses suggest only the pleasanter side of the double function. Proceedings are commenced by a sort of poetic competition between the men and the fairest maid. If the latter is not satisfied with the compliments paid her, she avoids the embarrassment of a direct refusal by bidding her suitor come for her "before he is awake." In this case he consoles himself with a pipe, and, after a short interval, transfers his addresses to some less exacting lady. As soon as the young people are equally paired off, the elders compete for the more valuable portion of the dead man's property. Jewels or weapons are set swingly by a string while the claimants pass in single file. The one who is nearest when the pendulum stops swinging secures whatever is attached to it. When each has thus secured a moment of the day, the rest is handed over to the children to be smashed up with all the crockery of the deceased, and buried with their ashes on some neighboring hill.

A Plague of Dew Stars.

Max Peacock contributes the following to The Naturalist:
"On September 25, 1890, I sowed the fish pond field at the Warp Farm, Botesford, Northwest Lincolnshire, with Schooley's 'wheat.' The seed germinated well and came up an excellent crop, braiding well. During the following winter my friends often remarked on the healthy look of the plant. This continued to be the case until the middle of March, when all at once I noticed a great change for the worse on the eastern side of the

field. This soon spread across the whole extent of the piece. On examination we found a vast army of Dew Slugs (Agriolimax agrestis) cutting off the young plant near the ground. We tried rolling the field, but this did not seem to do much good, although thousands were killed. For one that perished beneath the rings of the Cambridge roller a thousand more seemed to spring out of the ground. During the day the host of the enemy retired into worm holes or under small clots of earth. It was in the early morning and evening when the dew was on the plant that the enemy came forth to lay my crop. However, I had neighbors at hand who could master the pest. The Black-headed Gull, or, I suppose I ought to say brown headed gull (Larus ridibundus) came to my aid and soon cleared away the noxious invaders. These birds came in thousands from the mill ponds at Twickenham, Scotton, Consett, and Crosby Black Rabbit Warren. So heartily did some of my neighbors feel that they were unable to fly. The field at that time looked as if it had been eaten down with sheep—only a few withered blades were to be seen. I made up my mind to plough it out and drill oats in its place, but gave it a few days' grace to see if the pest would shoot again. In a few days from the gulls' coming I could see a vast improvement, and in ten days the field was again green so I let it stand. At harvest time this field produced by far the best crop. I had six or seven quarters per acre on it against five or less, in my other fields. The sample of grain was outstanding and the best I saw that season shown at our local market."

The Bull and the Bonnet.

Fashion has decreed the wearing of gold roses, with green foliage, in ladies' hats. An incident which took place at the Dublin Cattle Show suggests that the new mode possesses disadvantages hitherto unsuspected. A lady armed with a drawing-block and pencil, says the Freeman's Journal, was sketching one of the big, black polled bulls, and backed away to get a good view of him, until she heedlessly brought herself within range of a similar beast on the opposite side. Bull No. 2 being thirsty and bored, took note of the gleaming rose and lady's headgear, and made a snatch at them. He obtained more than he bargained for—no less than the whole hat—and then the astonishing spectacle was witnessed of an intrepid woman attacking a brute like a black buffalo with a B pencil.

Pawn Broker's Sign.

The three balls used by pawn brokers as a sign were originally the arms of the Medici family, the earliest and most important money lenders of Lombardy. The three balls were first used in London by an agent of the Medici and were afterward copied by others who went into the same line of business. Rescoe, in the "Life of Lorenzo de Medici" (1796) tells how the family adopted the three balls as its arms. Averado de Medici, a commander under Charlemagne, slew the giant Murgello, whose club, which had three iron balls upon it, he bore as a trophy and in commemoration of this victory the family adopted the three balls as its arms.—San Francisco Call.

Six Hours Afloat.

A London paper relates the trying experience of an English sailor. He could not swim, and was six hours in the water during a storm. He had a life-preserver, but was in constant terror lest it should slip from his grasp. If it did he knew he could never regain it. He had fallen off the bow-chains of the vessel, and from midnight to daylight the life-boat was searching for him while the ship lay to. Many captains would have desisted in an hour or two, but this one persevered, and the men were finally rewarded with a sight of their comrade a mile away. A day's rest restored his strength, and he resumed his dangerous duties.—Youths' Companion.

Sneeze-Wood.

Among its many curious products, Africa includes the "sneeze-wood," which takes its name from the fact that one cannot cut it with a saw without sneezing, as the fine dust has exactly the effect of snuff. Even in planing the wood it will sometimes cause sneezing. No insect, worm or barnacle will touch it; it is very bitter to the taste, and when placed in water it will sink. The color is light brown, the grain very close and hard; it is a nice-looking wood, and takes a good polish. For dock work, pliers or jetties, it is a useful timber, lasting a long while under water.

Think of 143,000,000 Stars.

Frog farming is a new industry in Massachusetts. Adjoining the town of Ware a company has leased ten acres, with a running stream. A series of artificial pools will be constructed, where the eggs will be hatched and the young frogs cared for during the two years necessary to fit them for market. The demand for frogs comes from colleges and medical schools as well as from restaurants.

Frog Farming in Massachusetts.

Tempor Affected by Color.
It has been noticed by the matrons of infant asylums that a baby will cross all day if dressed in a gray frock, but contented and happy if dressed in a bright red garment. Children from 2 to 4 years old are much affected by the color of their dress. It is commonly observed in Kindergarten that the younger children prefer the red playthings, while the older children prefer the blue.

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS



FISH ENEMIES TO MOSQUITOES.

Now that special efforts are being made to exterminate mosquitoes, owing to the belief that certain species of these insects are responsible for the spread of malaria, the fact that small fish are great destroyers of mosquito larvae assumes increased interest. This fact is vouched for by Dr. L. O. Howard of the department of agriculture. He tells of two small lakes formed nearly side by side in Connecticut by an invasion of the sea, one of which contained half a dozen small fish, while the other was fishless. Subsequent examination revealed tens of thousands of mosquito larvae in the fishless lake, but the other contained not one.

ALCOHOL AND HEALTH.

Few questions of the present day are capable of arousing more bitterness of dispute than that concerning the effect of alcohol upon the human system. Some assert that its daily use in moderation is, if not essential, at least beneficial to health, while others hold that the word moderation is inapplicable to the use of wine even in the most minute quantities.

Science, which is impartial and seeks facts alone, without regard to their possible application, does not hold to either of these views in its entirety, but inclines rather to the side of the total abstinence. It does not regard alcohol as a food in the sense that it can be taken regularly as a substitute for the albumens, the fats and the starches of ordinary food; but it does say that it may act as such, in the absence of other food, for a short time, and that its use may in an emergency be life saving.

This is practically placing alcohol with the drugs—substances which may be useful in sickness, but are injurious in health; and that is really where it belongs.

It is common belief that a drink of whisky or brandy is warming, but the reverse is the fact. Alcohol dilates the blood vessels of the surface, and so makes the skin feel warm, but at the same time radiation of heat from the surface is increased and the temperature of the body is lowered. The action of alcohol is also to lower the vital processes by causing a slow oxidation of the waste products.

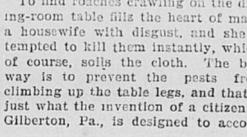
For these two reasons it is often a useful remedy in fevers, especially as it may spur up the heart to increased action for a time, and so enable the system to tide over a critical period. It may even be useful to prevent a cold when the body has been chilled, provided the exposure is passed, by restoring the equilibrium of the circulation. But in these and other cases the remedy is employed to meet an emergency—a very different thing from its habitual use.

The very fact of its interference with the oxidation of the tissues of the body causes depression of the vital forces, and so of the resisting power of the organism by disease germs. And here practice supports theory, for it is a fact of common observation that under equal conditions of exposure the habitual drinker almost always succumbs sooner than the abstainer.

KEEP ROACHES OFF TABLE.

To find roaches crawling on the dining-room table fills the heart of many a housewife with disgust, and she is tempted to kill them instantly, which, of course, soils the cloth. The best way is to prevent the pests from climbing up the table legs, and that is just what the invention of a citizen of Gilbert, Pa., is designed to accomplish.

BUG TRAP FOR TABLE LEGS.



HOLDER REPLACES CHIN GRIP.

For the instrument with the chin to keep it in position. The object of the invention which we present herewith is to do away with this necessity of the player holding his head down in a cramped position, providing a support which is attached to the garments and is an effective substitute for the old manner of holding the instrument. The device is simply a clamp, with a screw arrangement for attaching it to the necktie or the upper edge of the vest. The dotted lines show the position of a wire brace which is inserted in a band portion of the tie if the clamp is to be fastened to that article of apparel. From the face of the clamp projects a short stand or spindle, on which the instrument is mounted while playing, allowing it to turn freely in the hands. The inventor claims that the support will afford much relief to the player, enabling him to hold his head erect and thus not only relieving him of a cramped and painful position, but also enabling him to have the free use of his head and neck with reference to reading his notes and observing other matters of importance to him in effecting a successful rendering of the music.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC SPEED DETECTOR.

A Parisian inventor, Monsieur Gaumont, has devised a hand camera, by means of which the speed of a passing bicycle or automobile can be ascertained. The camera shutter has two slits, separated by a fixed distance, each of which in turn makes an exposure as the shutter flies across. The result is a picture containing two nearly superposed images of the moving object. The time elapsed between the exposures being known from the velocity of the shutter, it is only necessary to measure on the negative the distance between the two images of a hub, for instance, in order to have the data for a simple calculation which will show the speed of the vehicle at the instant; the photograph was made.

SAWDUST FOR FUEL.

In some parts of our country sawdust is burned at the mills, not as fuel, but simply to get rid of it. But in Europe a better use has been found for sawdust. In Austria, for instance, sawdust is impregnated with tarry substances, and then heated and pressed into briquets, which are readily sold for fuel. These briquets, weighing about two-fifths of a pound each, bring from 95 cents to one dollar per thousand. In heating power they equal lignite, and they leave only 4 per cent of ash.

A BALLOON VOYAGE.

On the first of September M. Jacques Faure, a member of the Aero club of Paris, crossed by balloon from the Crystal Palace, London, to France. He set off on his journey at six o'clock in the evening, and safely descended at Alette near Boulogne at ten minutes to eleven, the journey having occupied four hours and fifty minutes. The balloon traveled almost throughout the entire distance at a height of 200 feet. This is by no means an exceptional performance, since Mr. Percival Spencer, the well-known aeronaut of London, has crossed from the Crystal Palace to France on several occasions, with varied success, but the trip has never before been attempted by night. The advantage of the night journey is that the air being condensed does not rarely the gas in the balloon, as is the case when the sun's rays are directed upon the vessel during the daytime. So long as the temperature of the atmosphere remains at a certain point, the balloon will maintain its equilibrium at a regular altitude. M. Faure intends to recross from France to England, starting from Cherbourg, with the first suitable wind. On this occasion special floats will be attached to the balloon, so that, in the event of its unexpectedly descending into the water, it will be kept afloat.

WHY DOES SAP ASCEND?

Prof. S. H. Vines, president of the section of botany in the British Association, referred in a recent address to the force by which water is raised from the roots to the topmost leaf of a lofty tree, and remarked that it must be regretfully confessed that one more century has closed without bringing a solution of the old problem of the ascent of sap. One of the suggested explanations requires that in a tree 120 feet tall the transpiration force must equal a pressure of 360 pounds to the square inch. But Prof. Vines says there is no evidence that a tension of anything like such an amount exists in a transpiring tree.

SUPPORT FOR VIOLINISTS.

Any violin player, and especially the beginner, is aware that one of the difficulties to be mastered is the gripping of the instrument with the chin to keep it in position. The object of the invention which we present herewith is to do away with this necessity of the player holding his head down in a cramped position, providing a support which is attached to the garments and is an effective substitute for the old manner of holding the instrument. The device is simply a clamp, with a screw arrangement for attaching it to the necktie or the upper edge of the vest. The dotted lines show the position of a wire brace which is inserted in a band portion of the tie if the clamp is to be fastened to that article of apparel. From the face of the clamp projects a short stand or spindle, on which the instrument is mounted while playing, allowing it to turn freely in the hands. The inventor claims that the support will afford much relief to the player, enabling him to hold his head erect and thus not only relieving him of a cramped and painful position, but also enabling him to have the free use of his head and neck with reference to reading his notes and observing other matters of importance to him in effecting a successful rendering of the music.

AN AUTOMOBILE OF 1823.

one and a half tons; it is destined to carry three tons of merchandise, making a total of four and a half tons upon wheels conformable to the regulations established by law and subject to the usual restrictions. The first steam wagon ever built was constructed in Yonkers, N. Y., in 1823. A picture of it appears above.

FROG BREEDING.

Some Boston capitalists propose to raise frogs on an elaborate scale. An organization has been perfected and land has been purchased, where artificial ponds are being constructed. They will be lined with cement, and the smallest will be ten feet long and three in width. In these ponds the process of breeding will take place and at certain stages of development the little creatures will be transferred to ponds of greater dimensions. At the age of two years the animals would reach maturity. The food required for the frogs is of an extremely simple character and will cost but little, and it is expected that ultimately the company's investment will yield big returns. From 20,000 to 40,000 frogs will be grown annually, and if it is deemed advisable the yearly output will be increased to 100,000. While the product will be available for all the uses which frogs will be put, dead or alive, the principal demand is expected to come from colleges and medical schools. It is averred that in the past such institutions have, through the inability to secure desirable specimens of the sort, have been seriously handicapped in the prosecution of experiments in medical research. Schools in the east, for example, have frequently been obliged during the winter to send to California for the animals which upon their arrival here, have been unfit for analytical study. The Massachusetts frog breeders intend to remove the cause of all this inconvenience by supplying frogs in abundant numbers the year round.

Was Well Supplied.

When the Shah of Persia goes a visiting he creates consternation in the royal and imperial households which are for diplomatic reasons, obliged to receive him. The fact that among the priceless gems and curios which adorn his treasure room in his palace at Teheran is preserved such a curiosity as a toothbrush will give an inkling of why the Shah-in-Shah is not a desirable guest. Most of his gorgeous robes of state he has made in England, but of late has rather affected the French shops. The story is told of an enterprising firm of French shirtmakers who, on the occasion of the recent visit of the Shah to the French capital, thought to do a good stroke of business by getting his patronage. To this end they sent for the Shah's inspection a dozen of their finest and most costly shirts. "Ah, very pretty," remarked his majesty, "but I brought one with me from Persia."

Nicknames Unpopular.

A perfect revolution has come about in the matter of using pet names or nicknames outside of the family circle. In the public schools, and particularly in the high schools, teachers are insisting on the use of the Christian name of their pupils. In fashionable society, too, Jane is just plain Jane, and Mary, Mary, and Sarah, Sarah, and the quaint and beauty of these old-fashioned names go far to envelop the possessors with their poetical and historical values.

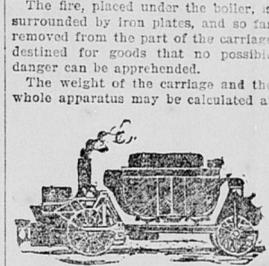
A STEAM WAGON.

A PATENT OBTAINED FOR NEW CARRIAGE.

Twenty-seven Feet in Length and May Carry Three Tons of Merchandise—For Use on England's Perfect Country Roads.

(London Letter.)

An inventor in Brompton-Crescent has obtained a patent for a wagon to be propelled by steam upon common roads. The carriage is twenty-seven feet in length, including seven feet for the fire, boiler, cylinder and the mechanism connected with the driving wheels. Instead of an axle-tree passing through both the front or both the hind wheels, as is usual in other carriages, the axis merely passes through the nave of each wheel sufficiently to support on each side uprights, which strengthen and connect the frame of the wagon. The direction of the carriage is effected by the action of a bevel pinion connected with a splinter which is governed by the coachman. This pinion acts on a wheel whose movements compel those of the iron braces fixed to the exterior of front wheels, which turn upon the same spot where they touch the ground; so much power is gained this pinion that little force is required from the coachman to produce necessary direction. There are safety valves situated at fifty feet upon a square inch, while every part of the steam apparatus has been prepared at the rate of 200 pounds upon a square inch. The steam is conducted into two condensers, formed of flat copper tubes; that part of the steam which is condensed, falling to the bottom of the condenser, is conveyed to the reservoir of water for further use, while the uncondensed steam is conducted through the chimney and here extinguishes such sparks as may occasionally find their way from the charcoal, combined with coals, of which the fire is made. The fire, placed under the boiler, is surrounded by iron plates, and so far removed from the part of the carriage destined for goods that no possible danger can be apprehended. The weight of the carriage and the whole apparatus may be calculated at



AN AUTOMOBILE OF 1823.

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