SENSES OF THE BLIND.

German Iconoclast Demolishes a Long Established Belief.

The Lancet: A long series of experiments has recently been made by Prof. H. Griesbach, of Basle, upon the relative acuteness of the senses of hearing, touch, taste and smell in the case of the blind and those who possess normal vision. The results are contained in Pflüger's Archiv. The observations were made on those who were otherwise healthy. In the differentiation of tactile impressions no remarkable differences were observed between the seeing and the blind, or if small differences did exist they were in favor of the seeing. In those born blind the tactile sharpness was somewhat less than in the seeing, and in some cases the sensorium generally was equally defective. The blind in particular feel less acutely with the tip of the index finger than do those who see, and in many cases the tactile acuteness of the two index finger tips differs. In the blind, especially in the region of the hand, a stronger impression is required to produce a tactile impression than in those possessed of sight. In the capability of localizing impressions of sound no difference exists between the blind and the seeing. In both great individual variations occur. As a rule, both in the seeing and the blind the use of the organ of both sides gives better results than the use of one alone. No difference in the acuteness of hearing exists between the blind and those who see. No relation was observed between the acuteness of hearing and the power of localizing sounds in either the seeing or the blind. No difference was observed in the two classes in regard to the acuteness of smell. In the execution of manual labor the blind become fatigued sooner than do those of equal age who see. The blind are more fatigued with manual than with mental work, which is not the case with the seeing of the same age. If any difference exists in regard to exhaustion after mental labor it is in favor of those of the same age who see. Both among the blind and the seeing there are persons who have many, others who have only a few, and others again who have no illusory or erroneous impressions of touch. These results are in many respects opposed to generally received opinions, for it is usually supposed that deprivation of sight leads to exaltation of the acuteness of the other senses, especially of the touch and hearing.

The future historian of the Chicago renaissance will record the black circumstance that in August, 1899, the bathtub nymphs of Fra Lorado Taft and his pupils were chopped up with hatchets and dumped into Lake Michigan. "Chicago doesn't know yet whether it liked them or not," remarks the Journal of that town. Art is eternal, even if these particular nymphs, being composed not of bronze or marble, but of plaster and sawdust, were extremely perishable. The principle of porkly sculpture remains.

Nine Policies.

Chicago News: Insurance Clerk—"Here is a woman that wishes her pet cat insured." Manager—"All right, but tell her she'll have to take out a policy on each one of the cat's lives."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

General fear is felt in Switzerland lest the neutrality of the Republic be violated during the next European war.

It is the dawning of a better day for education when the Chicago school authorities discover that the brighter-minded children are the stronger-bodied.

There has been plenty of proof, since the war broke out, that the theory of "the ingratitude of republics" does not hold in the United States.

A Connecticut man has just invented a wonderful flying machine. It is reported to differ materially from all previous flying machines save in one respect. It refuses to fly.

If young women, instead of wearing themselves out in riding centuries on bicycles, would try to establish a few records for helping their mothers there would be fewer sad and discontented old maids.

In the city of Breslau, Prussia, each street-cleaner has charge of four squares, which it is his duty to keep in perfect condition. One of his daily duties is to sprinkle sand on the asphalt roads to make them less slippery.

An almond trust has been formed and the toothsome nut of tropic clime will cost a lot of money this winter. This circumstance should be the golden opportunity for that glorious and thoroughly representative American product, the peanut, to seize the field and become "the real thing" in the daintiest confections.

Milan intends to have a world's fair in 1904 by way of celebrating the completion of the Simplon tunnel. One plan is to have the exposition in four cities, giving the industrial section to Milan, the agricultural to Florence, modern art to Venice, and ancient and ecclesiastic art to Rome.

By staying away from the building yards women aid in the making of ships. No feminine visitors are allowed to go through the Cramps' yards in Philadelphia because every time a woman passes through the shops every one of the 7,000 workmen raises his eyes from his work, and in one minute one man's work for a fortnight is lost to the employers.

Give the dunces a chance, good teachers. And while you work at your hardest and most thankless of tasks, accept the gratitude of the fathers and mothers whose fond dreams you make realities, and of the nation which grows in value and in power because of the work you do.

Fourteen feet is pretty good height for stalks of Indian corn at Black River Falls, Wis., the seed of which was imported from Porto Rico. If this corn matures well in Wisconsin it will be a valuable acquisition because of the big amount of fodder that may be secured from it.

Three stanch cruisers have been added to the Navy, they being the Spanish ships Isla de Luzon, Isla de Cuba and Don Juan de Austria. They make six ships of war added to the Navy by capture, not counting various small gunboats and armed launches. The largest one is the Reina Mercedes raised at Santiago and now being equipped for service.

The relations between Japan and the United States are likely to be closer than those of Japan and any other western power. In rousing herself from the lethargy so characteristic of oriental nations Japan has accomplished a marvel of national enterprise. In her effort to establish herself among the great powers she should receive every encouragement, especially from America, with whom her relations have always been most friendly and with whom she is now likely to be brought into still closer contact through trade with the Philippines.

It is said that Admiral Dewey and Mayor Van Wyck as they drove down Fifth avenue New York City at the head of the imposing procession, amid a wilderness of color and a steady roar of applause, the Admiral turned to the dignitary beside him and said, "Glorious, magnificent! But who are all these different old men whose pictures are displayed so profusely?" "Why, Admiral, those are all supposed to be you." "Me!" exclaimed the suffering hero. "Great Scott!"—and he sank back speechless against the cushions.

The earthquake in Alaska, was the worst seismic disturbance the Pacific Coast has seen since the Chilean earthquake, which wrecked the American cruiser Wateree. A curious feature of it was the splitting of the face of a glacier into immense icebergs. It is possible these ice masses may float a long way south and get in the way of commerce, thus providing a peril of the deep, common enough to the North Atlantic but rarely local to the North Pacific, owing to the inability of the big bergs of the Arctic ocean to pass through the shallows of Bering strait.

The draft upon our forests for railroad ties is immense, and will continue until some suitable metal substitute has been introduced. A number of varieties of trees have been exhausted practically to satisfy this steady and large demand in the interest of railroad construction and maintenance. Eighty million ties are used every year for renewals, and as only straight trees are used for this purpose, the time must come when our forests will contain no trees that are fit for this purpose. Formerly chestnut was preferred for ties, but it became so scarce that oak and pine have been largely substituted. About 45,000,000 ties are cut annually from oak trees and 12,500,000 from pine. The balance of the 80,000,000 come from chestnut, cedar, hemlock and tamarack, redwoods and the southern cypress.

There is a municipal lodging-house at Pitlake, West Croydon, England, which accommodates thirty-four women and sixty-six men. The men's quarters occupy one wing and the women's portion the other wing. For ten cents a night, or sixty-two cents a week, a woman has a separate apartment, with a small window, a spring bed, sheets and blankets, a coverlet and a chair. An additional charge of two cents is made for the use of the bathroom. There is a laundry and drying-room for clothing a long row of hot and cold water foot baths, for the use of which there is no extra charge, and a light, large recreation-room. The superintendent of the home says that during the five years since its establishment he has housed the roughest class of women, but has had no difficulty in maintaining order, and that there has been only one disturbance in that time, and that was "only a bit of a fight one Saturday night."

The cooking school was formerly a standing joke because it was a sort of "society" affair, merely a diversion of fashionable young ladies who thought it great fun to play at cooking, just as children enjoy making mud pies. But now we have cooking taught in a practical and scientific way. Whether a woman be the daughter or wife of a poor man or the child of fortune, whether she live in a cottage or a palace it is a great advantage to her and to those about her for her to know how to cook. Much of the misery of life and, we have no doubt, a considerable proportion of crime is attributable to bad cooking. It involves a waste of food and an infliction of discomfort, even of unhappiness and ill health upon many a victim. The cooks of a nation in the final account will probably be found to play a larger part in shaping its destiny than either its statesmen, its soldiers, its philosophers, its poets or its historians. Therefore let us have good cooks.

The young man who would succeed in life must have great confidence in his own ability to achieve success. This is a foundation stone, and without it his building will either never go up, or will topple. The men who have achieved results in life have been men who believed in themselves; men of large hope and of optimistic views. Despair never yet won a victory. Confidence must always precede action. A young man can never accomplish anything in the world till he is thoroughly convinced that he can. Pessimists have never done anything except to put stumbling-blocks in others' way. It is the cheerful, hopeful man, the man who believes that the world is growing brighter and better, that is of value to the world, not the man who fears failure, talks failure, thinks his work will be a failure. The very attitude or habitual condition of one's mind has a great deal to do with his success. A stream cannot rise higher than its fountain, and to achieve great success a man must continually dwell in the atmosphere of high ideals. He must think upward, work upward, or he can never reach a high goal.

HOW MOSQUITOES BREED.

They Believe in the Good Old Fashion of Large Families.

Mosquitoes believe in the good old fashion of large families. Well they may; they don't have to raise them. There is no walking the floor nights with the youngest, or sitting up to mend stockings; no worrying about the second summer—you know if you bring them through the second summer all right—there is no scheming to put Tom through Harvard or Dorothy through Vassar. It is very simple. Mamma lays from twenty to forty dozen eggs in some quiet pool along about 3 o'clock in the morning, and considers her duty amply done.

The inherited experience of ages has taught her that it is best to mass them together in a pointed eclipse slightly concave on the top, the eggs being little end up. The air so sticks to the mass that it is impossible to wet it. In sixteen hours the larvae come out on the under side and begin a most active exisence. They are the wigglers that used to infest the rain water barrel at the corner of the house "in the airly days."

The wiggler has two stages of existence, larva and pupa. For seven days it has hard work to get up to the surface to breathe, but when it changes, it has hard work to get down to the bottom. Two days later, its clothes begin to feel tight, and when all the back buttons burst off, it crawls out, using its old frock as a kind of boat, while it gets its wings straightened out. This is a very ticklish job, and many a young life has been lost by drowning at the very beginning of a promising career. The fact that so many eggs are laid would indicate, if nothing else did, that many mischances await the mosquito at all stages of its existence.—Ainslee's Magazine.

Her Thoughtfulness.

"Beautiful, my dear!"

The elderly millionaire who had married the famous beauty regarded the watch chain admiringly.

"A very delightful birthday present," he continued, beaming upon his fair young wife. "So massive and yet in such excellent taste."

"I am so glad you like it," she observed. "It was so cheap, too. Just think, it cost only fifteen dollars."

"Only fifteen dollars!" echoed the millionaire, in astonishment. "Fifteen dollars for this solid gold chain!"

"Oh, of course it isn't solid gold," she interposed. "You could never get a solid gold chain for that price."

"What is it, then?"

"Why, gold filled, to be sure."

"I see," said her husband, stroking his chin reflectively. "But why this sudden streak of economy? Don't you think I can afford to wear a solid gold chain?"

"Of course you can," she assented. "But this one is guaranteed to last for ten years—and—and—"

"Well," said the millionaire, inquiringly.

"Well, dear," she concluded, after some hesitation, "as that is quite as long as you are likely to live, I thought it would be foolish extravagance to pay any more!"—Woman's Home Companion.

The largest glass bottle plant in the world is located at Alton, Ill.

A TALE OF TOE.

But the Animal Was Killed and the Toe Recovered.

A bronze-visaged, middle-aged man joined the party. Several of the group recognized him as the captain of one of the big tramp steamers which ply between Philadelphia and foreign ports and a place in the circle was at once made for him. "We've been killing time telling stories," some one explained. "Suppose you turn in your contribution." The captain thought a moment and then smiled. "I was thinking of something that happened on my last voyage," he finally said. "We had on board as a cook a big colored fellow, whose principal companion was a little yellow cur dog. One day, while the cook was preparing some beef for dinner he let the heavy cleaver with which he was doing the chopping slip from his grasp. It fell to the floor with a thud and the cook emitted a howl of anguish that was heard all over the ship. The cleaver had struck one of his bare feet and sliced the big toe off as neatly as any surgeon could have done it. Here was a chance for the yellow dog, and he seized it. Making a dive for the severed toe, he swallowed it in one gulp and then made a bee line for the deck. This was more than the cook, crazed with pain, could stand, and he hurled the cleaver at the dog. His aim proved true and his curship passed out of existence then and there. At this juncture the ship's doctor came up to find out what all the row was about. When he learned the truth he laughed. 'I'll fix that for you,' he exclaimed to the cook; 'wait till I get my instrument case.' Within five minutes he had held a post-mortem on the dog and recovered the lost toe. Washing it with antiseptics, he skillfully stitched it back in place again and the cook hobbled back to his quarters minus the dog, but with as many toes as he had ever had. That's about the only story I recall just now, gentlemen. It has the merit of being true, however, and if you don't believe it come down to the ship any time and I'll show you the cleaver. The cook has quit the sea and I don't know his present address."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

It is only a waste of time to call a liar a liar.

Chicago Chronicle: Little six-year-old May Huhn proved herself one of the greatest juvenile swimmers in the world at the north side natatorium. She swam a mile in 1:07:17 3-5. The girl made a world's record, for no child has ever accomplished the feat before in such a short time. The child is not large for her age, nor does she seem to have muscles developed to a much greater extent than other girls as young as she, but it is the opinion of all that if she keeps at the game she will in time be one of the greatest female swimmers in the world. George Gaidzik lowered another world's mark for boys under 16 years old when he swam two miles in 1:12:15. The record was formerly held by Ralph Uhlendorf, who made the same distance in 1:14:29 2-5. Other good performances by juveniles were as follows: Walter Horn, 12 years old, two miles in 1:25:54; Lottie Mayer, 12 years old, two miles in 1:40; Charles Arens, 11 years old, one and a half miles in 1:13:54; Arthur Galdzik, 12 years old, one and a half miles in 1:15, and Robert Arens, 9 years old, one and a half miles in 1:25.

A handsome woman is a jewel; a good woman is a treasure.—Sanide.

WHITE SLAVES.

Efforts Making to Stop the Curse in Russia.

St. Petersburg Cor. New York Times: In view of the International Congress to be held in London at the end of the present month for the discussion of the best measure to be taken for the prevention of the "white slave" traffic, the Novosti has lately been publishing detailed accounts of the manner in which this business is carried on in Russia. The trade has developed to a great extent in the past few years throughout Western Europe, but the town of Jassy is its center. The women are bought, particularly at Leipsic, during the great annual fair, but it is the capital of Moldavia, which is the central point of the traffic, just as Khartoum was formerly the market place for the human merchandise imported from Abyssinia and Central Africa. From Jassy the merchandise is directed to Russia and Turkey. Next to Jassy, Brussels has become the most important center for this business. The white slaves destined for Russia are generally sent to Riga or to Vilna, where the wholesale merchants from St. Petersburg and Moscow meet to make their selections. These they transfer at once to the principal cities of the empire and to the remote provinces of Siberia. There was recently arrested in Odessa an agent of the principal Russian "white slave" merchants, and at his residence a voluminous correspondence, with sub-agents at Jassy, Brussels, Riga and elsewhere, was found. Thanks to this edifying correspondence, the Russian police ascertained that white slave agencies exist throughout Russia, in rural districts as well as in the principal cities and towns. In some of these letters the sub-agents mentioned that they had "exceptionally fine merchandise at a relatively low price, five parcels (sic) in all." Then there followed a detailed description of the goods. The Odessa agent in question has been exiled to Siberia, where he will spend the next ten years. From what I hear, the Russian government considers the white slave traffic as an international curse, which can only be successfully eradicated by the united efforts of all civilized nations. It is well known that the czarina is herself deeply interested in this matter.

AN AMERICAN IN SEVILLE.

"One of the Americans who was in Spain last year when things began to grow hot" relates in the Baltimore Herald an experience which seems to show that, under such circumstances, the boldest course is the safest. "I was advised," he said, "to call myself an Englishman, but whenever I had occasion to write my name I put 'Baltimore, U. S. A.' after it.

"I reached Seville two weeks before the declaration of war, and the landlord of the hotel looked upon me as a madman to register as I did. I rather expected trouble, and I was not disappointed.

"An hour after my arrival I went down to dinner, and there were four Spanish officers seated at my table. As I sat down they all rose and left, loudly declaring that they would not eat in my company. I simply laughed and went on with my meal.

"As I left the dining room a Spaniard rubbed against me on purpose. In the office another jostled me, and as I paid no attention, a third stepped up and blew out the match I had struck to light a cigar. As he did so I struck out and knocked him half-way across the room.

"They were fishing for a duel, and in the course of half an hour the fellow's seconds were at my door. As the challenged party I had the choice of weapons. I was sure that with revolvers I could drop any man at ten paces, but even after a fair duel they would have torn me to pieces.

"I therefore determined to 'make a bluff' of it. To the amazement and disgust of the second I insisted on shooting over a handkerchief. They realized that this meant sure death to both principals. Indeed, I illustrated the position to their satisfaction.

"They went away to report, and came back to stick for ten paces. Then I demanded bowie knives and a dark room. Their principal refused this, and I made a concession. I suggested that we be turned loose in a grove in the suburbs, each armed with a club, but this didn't suit at all. I kept the seconds running back and forth for two days, and my last proposition was that we be lashed together and flung into the river and allowed to use our teeth only. They gave it up after that, and I was treated with more respect than I could have gained by killing a man at ten paces."

The Latest in Shower Bath.

A Scotchman was once advised to take shower baths. A friend explained to him how to fit up one by the use of a cistern and colander, and Sandy accordingly set to work and had the thing done at once. Subsequently he was met by the friend who had given him the advice, and being asked how he enjoyed the bath: "Man," said he "it was fine. I liked it rale weel, and kept mysel' quite dry, too." Being asked how he managed to take the shower and yet remain quite dry, he replied: "Gracious, ye dinna, surely, I was sae daft as to stand ablow the water without an umbrella?"—Tit-Bits.

Mrs. Naggsby (impatiently calling)—"Nora, drop everything at once and come to me!" Nora—"Yes, ma'am." Mrs. Naggsby—"Now, what's the baby crying for?" Nora—"Because I dropped him, mum."—Tit-Bits.

A MAN BARGAIN-HUNTER.

Not Agreeable as the Provider for a Household.

When the man becomes a bargain-hunter he goes about it with masculine seriousness, hunts bargains by level and rule, and there is nothing feminine that can equal him, says the New York Times. There is one man in New York who never buys anything at the regular market price. Just now he is wearing a straw hat that cost 35 cents. That really is a bargain in bargains, though he has limited himself to 50 cents for a straw hat and $1 for the soft felt hats he wears in winter. He also rejoices in a suit that cost $7.50, and the man who orders his clothes at the shop where there is only "one price" says he cannot see much difference between the bargain suit and his own, where there are two figures in the dollar mark. But then a bargain always looks better on the other man. The woman who knows says that a bargain-hunting man is never a bargain as a husband. The bargain habit in the woman is only a bit of femininity emphasized, but the bargain spirit in the man means a strong characteristic which is not agreeable in any one who is the provider for a household. There is a P. S. to this story, which has come in at the eleventh hour, and which goes to show that man as a class is a recognized bargain hunter. These latest advices show that at the time the man—supposed to be a rara avis—when he purchased his 35-cent hat, also purchased a number of other small things, his entire bill amounting to 75 cents. Thereupon the clerk in the shop, which undoubtedly caters to the man bargain hunter, presented him, in consideration of his extensive purchases, with a card numbered around the side for punches, entitling him to have his shoes blacked fifty times in that establishment, without charge. Did ever a tea store offer a woman so large a premium as this?

Early Marriages of Royalty.

Royal personages almost invariably marry young. The queen was not quite 21 when she married Prince Albert; the prince of Wales was not 22 when he wedded Princess Alexandra; the late czar of Russia was only 22 when he married Princess Dagmar, sister of the princess of Wales, who was 20; King Humbert of Italy was 24 when he married the 17-year-old Margherita, and the emperor of Austria was 23 when he wedded the lovely Princess Elizabeth, who was only 16. The king of the Belgians was first married at the age of 18; the late king of Spain was married first at the age of 19, and had a second wife when he was 22, and the German emperor was only 22 when he married the Princess Augustus Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein-Augustenburg.—Tit-Bits.

The means of passenger transit in Paris is something that will interest a great many people the coming year, in view of the throngs that will visit the exposition. It is effected by electricity, steam, compressed air and horse-power. There are three tramway lines serving Paris and the suburbs, and omnibuses are generally used throughout the city. One of the above-mentioned tram lines belongs to the Compagnie Generale des Omnibus, and the other two are practically controlled by the same company; so that it can be said to have a monopoly of the entire passenger transit, exclusive of cabs and carriages. It is a stock company, organized in 1855, having obtained from the city the exclusive right to transport passengers from one point to another in the city of Paris. The concession expires on the 31st of May, 1910. The omnibuses are of two sizes, and drawn by two or three horses, respectively. The smaller model is arranged for 28 to 30 places (14 outside, 14 inside and two on the platform). The larger model affords accommodations for 20 on top and 20 inside, including four on platform. The fare on the top is 15 centimes (near 3 cents); inside and on platform, 30 centimes (nearly 6 cents). The payment of the last-mentioned fare entitles the passenger to a "correspondence" or transfer ticket to another connecting or intersecting line. No passengers are taken on when the places are filled, either at a station or en route. At the starting points numbered tickets are handed to the passengers, and when there are more than enough to fill one conveyance the precedence is given to those holding the first numbers. The next omnibus or car starting begins with the number last uncalled on the previous vehicle. The same system prevails at the fixed stations en route for vacant places. No standing in the aisle is allowed. The statistics for 1896 show the number of passengers carried as follows: 33 lines of omnibuses (26 to 30 places), 50,030,034; 14 lines of omnibuses (40 places), 79,349,631; 3 lines of steam tramways, 12,862,990; 23 lines of horse tramways, 87,092,926; 4 lines of compressed air and electricity, 10,705,340; total, 240,040,291. The distances traversed by the divers lines vary from about two miles to a little over four miles.

Cook in Earthenware Vessels.

Cook nothing in iron vessels that you can cook in earthenware. The heat in the latter is more uniform, the flavor better preserved and there is less liability to burn.