KEPT TALLY ON FIBS.

THE ASTONISHING RESULT OF ONLY ONE DAY OF COUNTING.

An Investigator's Discovery of What an Enormous Bouquet of the Flowers of Fable Adorns the Daily Speech of the Average Mortal.

"Do you know that the average American is a hopeless and incorrigible and unmitigated liar?" said an amateur cynic of Baronne street. "I don't mean he lies viciously, but suave mendacity glides off the end of his tongue as easily as molasses flows from a spigot on a warm day in summer. He does it unconsciously, habitually, automatically—just as his lungs expand and his heart palpitates and his hair grows, without any special attention from the rest of his system. He does it because he can't help it. The thing has become a second nature.

"I had all this brought home to me," continued the amateur cynic, "by a very simple little experiment which I tried on myself and a few others no longer ago than yesterday morning. Did you ever see a pocket counting machine? Well, it's a little device shaped like a watch. Whenever you press the stem the needle on the dial jumps a point, and it registers in that way up to several thousand on the principle of a cyclometer. They are used by anybody making long counts and are very handy, because they never forget where they leave off.

"But, to come to the point, something happened to remind me of our national vice of untruthfulness as I was getting up yesterday, and I determined to keep tally on myself and ascertain, if possible, how many natural, out-and-out lies I put into circulation in the course of the day. I changed to have one of the little counting machines, fastened it just inside my shirt, so I could slip it easily, quickly and unobtrusively.

"The first lie I told was right at the door. My landlady was passing and stopped to say, 'Good morning.' I said I, 'Glad to see you,' when as a matter of fact I was quite sorry to see her. I owe her some rent and hurried on, but before I got to the office I had [illegible]

"When I [illegible] Oh, trivial lies, I admit, trivial lies, but at the same time lies. Whenever I opened my mouth out popped a lie. I told Joe I was the fellow he is interested in [illegible] I told the boy I was not in when I was. I told a tailor who dropped in to dun me that I was just going out to see him about a bill I had been expecting for weeks. I told a friend I was glad to see him, when I was not. I told a man I was sorry he had called when I was not. I told a man I was busy when I was not. I told a man I was not at home when I was. I told a man I was not to be disturbed when I was not. I told a man I was not to be disturbed when I was not. I told a man I was not to be disturbed when I was not