

**A Battle of Names.**

According to a Washington dispatch in the Tribune "there is a movement on foot in Washington to restore the use of the term 'Executive Mansion' instead of 'White House,' which has been the custom during the Roosevelt administration;" and many members of congress are said to prefer the longer and more pretentious name, says the New York Sun. "White House" it is, in the mind and mouth of every American; so known across the water, too. The term, as recent researches by correspondents of the Sun have shown, is of respectable antiquity. It seems to have been traced as far back as Madison's second administration. It will soon be entitled to its centenary. It is a familiar figure, of homely and cordial look. It is not to be put out by a long trained intruding trollop like "Executive Mansion." That may accommodate itself well to the legal, formal and clerical style, but the popular and the fittest name is and will be "White House." President Taft is no friend of pomp and swollen words. We have no doubt that he prefers to live in a "house." As for those members of congress who from fondness for eloquence or want of taste love high-sounding names, Mr. Taft may tell them a little jest by which Dr. William Everett used to teach simplicity: "At Yale 'the president's lady retires;' at Harvard 'the president's wife goes to bed.'"

Ramezes II. is dead. He was not the great ruler of ancient Egypt, as the name given him might indicate, though the date of his birth ran well back into the past. Ramezes was a toad, and miners digging 500 feet below the surface at Butte, Mont., found him there, imbedded in rock. He was sound asleep, but awake when brought into the light of day, and has been decidedly lively since. The Bronx zoo acquired him as one of its most notable curiosities, scientists having decided that he must be 1,000 or 1,200 years old, if not more so. And now, having lived to what was literally a green old age, he has succumbed to the inevitable. Life under modern conditions appears to have been too swift for a reptile that had passed so long a period in unbroken stone and quiet.

The April dividend and interest payments in this country aggregate considerably more than \$123,000,000. This is about \$10,000,000 above the payments of the same kind a year ago, which is convincing proof of the improvement in conditions. What is especially significant is the advance in industrial dividends, which are nearly \$5,000,000 greater than in 1908. Dividends represent actual profits, while interest is money paid out for loans. But from either point of view the situation is satisfactory. It shows that industrial concerns are making more money and that railroad and other earnings are sufficient to meet all interest demands and in most cases to provide for distribution of gains to stockholders.

The next development of the wireless telegraph idea seems to be the establishment of municipal stations in all principal cities, to the end that, no matter what storms may sweep the country, it will be possible to communicate with the outside world so long as the city hall tower remains standing. Philadelphia is taking the lead, and inasmuch as the expense is relatively slight, it is likely that other cities will be communicating with each other in the near future.

Morocco may again become the theater of disturbance. There are signs of the outbreak of a revolt against the new sultan which may take the form of a holy war—that is, one in which the Mohammedans may be summoned to fight on the pretense of devotion to their faith. But with Raisuli and several other former disturbers of the peace keeping quiet, there is hope that things may simmer down.

The contract has been given for the construction of the Clermont, which is to be a fac simile of the famous steamer built by Robert Fulton, and which made the trip to Albany 100 years ago. The craft, like the imitation Halfmoon, typifying Hudson's craft, will be used in the tercentenary celebration this year, and everybody along the river will have a chance to see the boats.

The one survivor of the party of four Americans who started two years ago to walk from Buenos Aires, in South America, to New York, says he will finish the journey if it takes him 12 years. This is rather a useless ambition. Pedestrianism has its virtues, but walks that take years to complete are hardly a real need of life.

Lieut. Shackleton's nose may be put out of joint by Commander Peary, who is presumably sledging toward the north pole, and dining on dog meat.

**Noxious Fiction**

**Books Portraying Illicit Conduct Are Dangerous**

By REV. DR. CHAS. H. PARKHURST



THE home is the basis of everything best in our social, ecclesiastical and civic life. It is fundamental to everything that is making for social respectability and wholesomeness. And the keynote to the home is matrimony.

This being so, whatever tends to weaken the matrimonial bond is inevitably bound to exert a deleterious influence on every aspect of the home life of to-day—an influence which will be far-reaching in its infamous effects. Every time matrimonial infidelity—or anything that savors of such—is spoken lightly of or garbed in an attractive aspect the highest and truest ideals of marriage are made to suffer in the eyes of all people. But especially in the case of the thoughtless and the young is this true. Anything which gives publicity to departure from the pure simplicity of marital relations weakens the life of the home in the eyes of these people and sows a deadly crop of sin and corruption in its wake. Whether the medium through which this is done be the setting forth of actual incidents wherein loose marriage relations are typified, or whether it be through fiction, makes no difference—the result is exactly the same.

In fact, if anything, fiction is apt to do more harm than an absolute narration of facts, for the latter is not so liable to dress moral looseness in an attractive and radiant way—a way which will appeal to those who do not take the trouble to go below the surface. And whereas the youth, both male and female, often would not care to bother with a newspaper account of divorce, infidelity and things of that sort, he will read fiction. Therefore I say that the type of fiction which is dealing with illicit conduct is doing a vast amount of harm.

The tendency to-day is bad enough in that direction anyhow without being fostered by literary representation. The whole matter is very much in the air—altogether too much so. It is never to be forgotten that the less marriage is respected and revered the less the home and all that goes with it will mean, the less the foundations of our social life will mean. It is really astonishing how easily people will incline toward and accept what is not nice, and how rapidly moral tastes, once on the downward track, will deteriorate.



**Grocer Is Busiest Man in Whole City**

By GEORGE H. TANNER

The slum grocer, having his store in an eight by ten foot basement, is the busiest man in Chicago. He is busy avoiding kicks and knocks from customers, from the health department, and from many other sources. If the kicks slow up occasionally, he gets busy planning how to get out of his basement storeroom and secure better and more spacious quarters for his little business. Most probably he is figuring on getting out of the grocery business altogether, or at least out of the slum part of it.

For no sort of occupation is so tiring and disconcerting as keeping a little grocery in some dingy and moist basement in the Ghetto or in any other congested district. The hours of work are from four o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night. But this is not the only drawback of the small slum storekeeper. There are other more painful situations which confront him.

Perhaps the worst of these is the necessity of keeping the store clean and the goods fresh. Both of these are things which the basement grocer simply cannot do, at least not well. He has no facilities for keeping his place clean and has no trade large enough to allow his goods to circulate quickly and to get in a new stock of goods every other week or so.

There are hundreds of little stores in Chicago where the keeper of the store has only one room back of his store to live in. As the proprietor of such a store has one and generally more children, the insufficiency of the "home" is apparent. So the family encroaches on the business premises and the home and store become one.

Frequently upon entering such a store one will find some of the family wash drying in the rear of the little room. Children crawl about the floor, playing with the measures, the scoops, or whatever else they can lay their hands upon. The woman, the wife of the storekeeper, who acts as saleswoman while he is away, and frequently while he is there, too, has her babe in her arms or lap. When a customer comes in she puts down the baby and is ready to wait on him.

**Interesting Facts of Deadly Loco Weed**

By CHARLES F. ALLEN

Wherever you go in Colorado or any other part of the cattlemen's country, you will find the word "locoed" applied both to animals and to men, to indicate that something is wrong with the subject mentally, allowing that animals have minds. Perhaps you start from a livery with a fine span of four-year-olds, perfect mates, only to find that one of them is to be watched without ceasing. This one may be afraid of every calf that looks through a wire fence, or of rabbits, or the whistle of prairie dogs, or sometimes he may bolt without apparent cause, as if struck by a whip.

The driver always tells you that the horse is locoed, and as you drive along the prairie or in many places in the mountains, he will show you the loco plant by the wayside. It is a silver-gray plant of the pea family, seldom more than eight inches high, and covering a space of the size of a very large dinner plate, often much smaller, but always appearing thrifty and defiant of the midsummer heat.

The story runs that a cow or horse, finding the loco weed the first and freshest plant on the range in the spring, is driven by hunger to eat it. The effects are supposed to be after the nature of opiates and an appetite is soon created that makes a "dope fiend" of the animal. It becomes thin, loses appetite and energy, and in all other ways resembles the opium victim in its symptoms. At last it refuses to hunt food, and lies down, to be covered with flies and picked to death by maggots, if in their haunts. A man who ran horses one winter in Oklahoma stated to me that he lost 60 out of 100 head in six months—all from the effects of loco.

There is no cure possible so long as the victim has opportunity of getting more loco. Death affords the sole relief.

**RATS EAT DYNAMITE AND CAUSE BIG SCARE**

RODENTS FILL UP ON DEADLY EXPLOSIVE, THEN HASTEN TO JERSEY CAPITAL.

Trenton, N. J.—Trenton has only just recovered from an awful fright, due to the visitation of the imaginary Jersey "devil bird," when a new scare is caused by a plague of explosive rats which has been infesting the Mercer county workhouse, a few miles from this city.

The workhouse warden discovered that a sack of dynamite, used for quarry purposes, had been broken open and most of its contents carried away. A thorough investigation showed that none of the officials at the institution had removed the explosive.



A Loud Explosion Took Place.

and the Mercer County Board of Freeholders began to fear that Black Handers plotted to blow up the buildings.

A loud explosion occurred within a few feet of the administration building early the other day, and the noise brought the terror-stricken officials to the scene. One of the guards, believing that an attempt was being made to blow up the prisoners in order to give them a chance for their lives, but cooler counsel prevailed.

The only thing that could be found about the premises which indicated the cause of the explosion was the badly mutilated body of a rat, and it dawned on the officials that rodents might have eaten the dynamite. The body of the dead rat was examined and some unexploded dynamite was found in the stomach. The discovery created terror, for it was known that the simultaneous explosion of a dozen rats charged with dynamite would destroy all the workhouse buildings and kill the inmates.

Guns were fired off, powder was burned and other ways to force the rats to vacate their strongholds were resorted to, and met with much success. Thousands were seen running in the direction of this city, and while the workhouse people sighed with great relief this city is now terror-stricken.

It is realized that it would be impossible to drive all the rats out of a city of 100,000 inhabitants without risk of something happening that might cause several of the loaded rodents to explode.

Housewives have unbaited and locked up the rat traps and cats and dogs are being kept under restraint.

It is feared that the rats that left the workhouse and came to Trenton will probably remain together, so that if one should explode the others would follow suit. Extra firemen and policemen have been put on duty, but just what part they are to play to avert a catastrophe will have to be determined by developments. Steps will likely be taken to prevent a rat disaster.

**PIANO PLAYED BY "GHOSTS."**

Watchmen Frightened from Supposed Treasure Building, Where Woman Was Burned to Death.

St. Paul, Minn.—The house in Forest street where Mrs. Anna Post, an aged recluse, was burned to death, is supposed to be haunted, and the watchmen who have guarded the house every night since the death of the woman, in the belief that a fortune is hidden somewhere in the ruins, have all been frightened away.

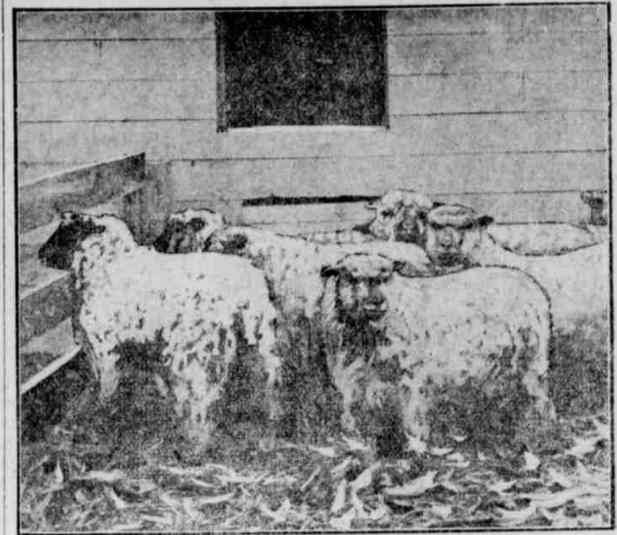
Early the other morning the third watchman who ventured to guard the place heard a noise coming from the partly burned piano, and sought protection from Policeman Swenson and Shook, who were on their way home.

The watchman was terrified, and told the policemen that he distinctly heard the sound of a funeral dirge played on the piano. He was assured that it was imagination on his part, but he could not be persuaded that the house was not haunted, and he resigned his job then and there, leaving the premises to the mercy of the "spooks."

Since the death of Mrs. Post her relatives have had the house guarded at night and during the day the ruins are searched for gold supposed to have been left by the old woman, but so far none has been unearthed. Last week the watchman was frightened away by noises that he asserted he heard in the house, and the other watchman was frightened in a similar manner.

**CHICAGO AND OMAHA SHEEP TRADE CENTERS**

Shipping Facilities Make These Two Cities Principal Markets for Sheep Trade; Show Rapid Growth—By W. C. Coffey.



A Bunch of Prime Wethers.

If close proximity to the regions where most of the sheep are produced were the only factor in determining the best location for a market, the largest markets would be still farther west than they are, because nearly 75 per cent. of the sheep in the United States are west of the Mississippi river, and 57 per cent. are in the Rocky Mountain region and west of the Pacific coast.

Shipping facilities for getting the output of the packing houses to the consumer have an important bearing. Still another factor which has a great deal of influence is the fact that many sheep from the west are fattened in the Mississippi and Missouri valleys. Many of these are handled twice by the markets, first as feeders, and again as sheep intended for slaughter. When sold as feeders, they go only a comparatively short distance from the market and this is a factor that equalizes the seeming disparity of the markets being too far removed from the regions of heaviest production, and really makes such places as Chicago and Omaha the actual centers of the sheep trade.

The great central sheep markets of to-day have enjoyed a very large growth during the last 20 years. The total number of sheep received at Chicago in 1887 was 1,360,862; in 1907, 4,218,115. This growth is largely traceable to the turning of the sheep husbandry interests in the west from wool production, as a primary object, to the production of both mutton and wool, and to the rise of the sheep feeding industry. By liberal infusions of mutton blood into their flocks, and by marketing their sheep at a younger age than formerly, western flockmasters supplanted a dry, ill-flavored mutton with a wholesome product that met with ready demand. Almost at the same time sheep feeding became popular, and these better bred sheep of the range were also better fed. A further impetus was thus given to mutton consumption which has now reached the point, in many of our cities, at least, where the only check to liberal consumption is the lack of the ability to buy.

With this increased activity in the production of better mutton in the west and in feed lot operations, the large markets have not only increased in volume of business but they have also improved in their organization, as may be seen in the review of conditions past and present at the Chicago market. Formerly sheep on this market were not classed and graded, but they were sold in mixed bands just as they were unloaded from the cars. Often these mixed shipments were made up of all ages and sexes, in every degree of quality and condition. The volume of business was small; mutton was not much sought after, and hence the need of careful discrimination was not felt. To the commission man or the buyer this system perhaps did not offer great inconvenience. Perhaps the buyer even counted it to his advantage as he is inclined to measure the value of the whole offering by the inferior individuals in it. But to the shipper who occasionally visited the market, little opportunity was presented by such a system to determine the preference of buyers. This system gave way to one that is more orderly and definite. The day of the buyer taking "pot luck" on shipments as a whole is over. Now they are sorted into the different classes and grades and thus presented for the inspection of the buyer. The result is an orderly and definite market by which the man who follows his shipments to sale may be enlightened, and from which market quotations may be made that will be of aid to those that have sheep to sell.

With respect to control of receipts so that violent fluctuations in prices do not occur within a very short space of time, the Chicago market has greatly improved during the last 20 years. Until the sheepmen of the west became fully recognized as specialists in mutton production, treacherous and violent fluctuations were matters of almost daily occurrence. There are records of declines of 50 cents per hun-

dredweight in prices within an hour. The large western shipper was obliged to forestall such ruinous conditions. This was done by establishing feeding stations on the railway lines tributary to Chicago from the west. Most of these are owned and controlled by the railroad companies, although a few are owned by private parties. The large shipper consigns his sheep to some one of these feeding stations, and then awaits the advice of his commission firm as to the number of sheep and the time he shall send them to market. A shipment of say 20,000 sheep is thus distributed over a period of a week or ten days, instead of all being dumped on the market on the same day. Since from 65 to 75 per cent. of the sheep reaching the Chicago market are consigned first to the feeding stations, it can readily be seen how much they aid in preventing market glutting. The record run of sheep on the Chicago market for one day is little less than 60,000, and a run of 40,000 is considered very heavy, but were it not for the feeding stations it is claimed that there would frequently be days when the run would be from 60,000 to 100,000 head.

**BREEDING INSECT RESISTING PLANTS**

How One Can Select Those That Will Withstand Attacks of Insects.

From time to time various authorities have called attention to the possibilities of selecting seed from plants that have successfully withstood adverse conditions, such as drought, poor soil, fungi, etc. It is left to Dr. S. A. Forbes, Illinois state entomologist, to suggest the plan of selecting plants that have successfully withstood the attack of insects with the hope of building up a plant which would be practically immune from such attacks. In a recent address before an association of entomologists at Madison, Wis., Dr. Forbes said:

"I would like to see the experiment made of growing corn from seed taken from the few best stalks of a field which has been overrun by insects, in



Destructive Polyphemus Moth.

the hope that we might thus gradually develop varieties of this plant capable of withstanding insect attack, or of selecting our seed from the best grown and most fruitful plants in a field which has suffered heavily from drought—of applying, in short, the method by which rust-resistant varieties of wheat and the like are now being formed."

If Doctor Forbes' idea of breeding a stalk of corn immune from attacks of insects is unique, it is certainly not beyond the range of possibility. We hope that sooner or later this suggestion will be acted upon with the hope of developing a plant of superior quality to others of the same kind.

Use of Nitrate of Soda.—For soils that are deficient in nitrogen, nitrate of soda would be very valuable on account of its quick action. Use it as a top dressing at the rate of 100 pounds to 200 pounds per acre, and make three or four such applications during the season. The first rain will wash it into the soil and it will be immediately available. But for the general gardener the nitrogen can be secured much more cheaply and in more permanent form by the plowing under of cow peas, clover and well rotted barnyard manure.