

THE SUBURBAN CITIZEN.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Since the dawn of history those nations which have flourished most have cultivated some form of athletics.

Scientists now say that in future ages all women will be brunettes. By that time no one will be able to find a white horse or a drug store.

Kansas butchers are reported to be making sausages of rabbits. Can it be possible that the dog is to be forced out of business along with the horse?

A citizeness of Eldred, Penn., has started and carries on a nitro-glycerine and dynamite factory; a miss of Rochester owns and operates a butcher shop; two women of Passaic, N. J., have just been arrested for running an illicit distillery. And yet there are some men mean and prejudiced enough to deny the advantages of female higher education!

The exports of agricultural products have fallen off from \$655,000,000 during the first ten months of the calendar year 1898 to \$624,000,000 during the corresponding period for 1899, is due to better harvest in other wheat-growing nations. At the same time, however, the exports of manufactured goods have increased from \$259,000,000 to \$311,000,000.

The recent startling revelations brought out by the Government inquiry as to the use of salicylic acid, boric acid, borax and other adulterations in food, must have brought home to many women a realizing sense that Government has to do not only with matters of war and foreign policy, but with domestic questions of vital importance to every housekeeper. When she was told that politics was something outside the house, one witty American mother answered: "It affects the quality of almost everything that we eat, drink and wear, and even determines the purity of the city's milk supply. Instead of being 'outside the house,' it is actually inside the baby."

Cornstalks, which until recent years have been regarded as a waste product, are now used for half a dozen commercial purposes, and sell in the West at six dollars per ton. Properly prepared, they make a nutritious food for horses and cattle; they yield cellulose, which is used for an inner sheathing for warships; they provide the basic material for smokeless powder, and from their fibre both paper and glue of excellent qualities are produced. Enthusiastic statisticians estimate that the cornstalks that have gone to waste in this country in the last twenty years would have yielded commercial products worth \$18,000,000,000, and that the annual crop, when fully utilized, will give the farmers a return of \$900,000,000.

Readers of Dickens are familiar with the quaint figure of the commercial traveller, or "bagman," of the early days of the century, travelling the country with his gig and speedy horse, a combination which passed out of existence with the advent of railroad trains. A report from London, published the other day in the daily newspapers, suggests that the commercial traveller of the twentieth century may return, in a measure, to the mode of travelling adopted by their predecessors of days gone by. Only he will travel in a thoroughly modern manner in an automobile. The commercial travellers are said to be contemplating this new mode of travelling, on the ground that it will save long waits at crossroad stations and will, moreover, be more economical.

The white population of Cape Colony, South Africa, has increased largely since the census of 1891, and is now estimated at something over 500,000. The three Dutch churches have on their books the names of about 350,000 Boers, men, women and children. The British number about 140,000, and Germany and other nations are represented by about 20,000 persons. In Cape Colony are more Boers than in the two Boer republics. The statistics in the latest edition of the Transvaal State Almanac may be taken as approximately accurate, and they give the total white population of the republics as 380,000, of whom 280,000 are Boers, 60,000 are British and 40,000 other whites. In the whole of South Africa there are 645,000 Boers and only 245,000 persons of British birth or descent. Less than half the Boers live in the two republics, but even there they outnumber all the British in South Africa.

BEARS NEWS OF DEATH.

MR. DIMMENT THE ONLY REMAINING AANSPREKER IN AMERICA.

Survival in Milwaukee of a Custom Once Common in New York and Still in Vogue in Holland—His Business Is to Announce Deaths.

"Yes, mine is a queer business. Death to you means a loss; to me it is not only a profit but a livelihood. Death and I are friends. On him depends my living. Were there no death, I, as aanspreker of the Dutch families of Milwaukee, would not be in demand. As it is, I am his messenger."

So spoke Adrian Dimment to a New York Sun man in Milwaukee, Wis. He continued:

"Yes, the life of an aanspreker is indeed a strange one, and yet in Holland it does not attract much attention. But here in America little of us is known. In the early Dutch colonial days in the East there were many of us. At present I know of no other person in this country who makes his living as I do. I am perhaps the only survivor in the United States of an ancient custom which is still in vogue in the rural districts in Holland; but the progress of the time has gradually crowded us out of the business in this country. As for myself, I cannot expect to follow my strange vocation much longer. I am eighty-two years of age and life at that stage is uncertain. I sometimes wonder whether with me will die the custom of the Dutch aanspreker of Milwaukee."

Mr. Dimment's business is to go from house to house and announce the death of any member of the Holland colony who may die here. In the rural districts of Holland every village and town has its aanspreker or announcer. The relatives of the deceased engage the aanspreker and he calls on a list of the friends and acquaintances that the bereaved family may wish to inform of the death. These announcements take the place of the customary newspaper death notice. Usually where daily newspapers are printed there is little need for the aanspreker.

When years ago the Dutch settled in Milwaukee the need of an aanspreker became apparent. Although there are several thousand Dutch families in this city, there is no newspaper published in their language. Consequently they have for years relied on the aanspreker, Mr. Dimment, to keep them informed on the deaths of members of the colony.

"You see," explained Mr. Dimment, "there is no way in which our people would know of the death of a Hollander were it not for the aanspreker. When an American or a German dies, the usual death notice in the newspapers is all that is necessary. But we have no Dutch papers here. It is true that many of the 2,500 families of Dutch descent in this city do take some of our city papers. Many read German and the younger generation reads English. But take the old Dutch settler, he who came direct from the rural districts of Holland to this country, he cannot read any other than his native language and not always that. He has spent his days on the farm and is now ending his last years in quiet retirement. Outside of meeting his people at the Dutch church on Sunday he knows little of what his fellow countrymen are doing. When a death occurs late in the week we can always reach him with an announcement of the funeral from the pulpit on Sundays. But where a Dutch resident dies early in the week and the funeral occurs on or just before Sunday, we cannot reach him by this means. The aanspreker is then called in."

"I have followed this business for many years and I suppose I must have broken the news of the death of their friends to thousands of people. No, it is not always an easy task. One must understand the business like anything else. It is easier to inform a chance acquaintance than a dear friend or relative. The aanspreker must use tact and judgment. He must adapt himself to circumstances."

When it is taken into consideration that in his rounds he calls on two or three hundred families and that when he makes the announcement of the death he is plying with a hundred and one questions, it will be seen that he has no time for gossip. Neither has he time to stop to console friends or to listen to reminiscences of the departed. Usually before he starts out on his trips he obtains all the information he can from the relatives as to the illness of the dead person. He ascertains the funeral arrangements, and then studies to put his facts into as few words as possible. When he starts on his trips, he figures as closely as he can to save time on the arrangement of the order in which he takes the families. He does not ring the bells nor rap at the door. That would be time wasted. He must work quickly, and therefore walks right into the house of the family he is to notify. He announces briefly the circumstances of the death and the details of the funeral. Then he leaves. It is not necessary for him to preface his remarks with an introduction of himself. Every Dutch resident in Milwaukee knows him. He does not have to say whether he is an official business or just paying a visit. Everybody knows that when Adrian Dimment, attired in his black suit of mourning, calls, he brings bad news and that somebody has passed over the meridian of life.

Although eighty-two, Mr. Dimment is a man of remarkable activity. His trips take him miles about the city, but he goes over his routes with a vigor that surprises many of the younger men of his people. Winter and summer, rain or shine, he makes the trips whenever he is called upon.

His journeys last from early morning until often very late at night. Where meal times overtake him he dines. The old man finds a meal awaiting him whenever he chooses to eat. But even his meal hours are often curtailed when the time for his getting his notices about is short.

A Printing Exhibition.

In June next year it will be 500 years since the birth of Johann Gutenberg, who invented the art of printing with movable type. It is not, as a matter of fact, exactly known when he was born, but for the sake of convenience it is assumed that the interesting event occurred in June, 1400. That time will do as well as any other, and must be pretty nearly correct, says the Minneapolis Times. That he was born in the German city of Mayence, on the Rhine, is not disputed, and in that city the fifth centenary of his birth will be celebrated next year by an international printing exhibition. Nothing could be more fitting. The main features of the exhibition have already been agreed on. There will be an historical section comprising specimens of printed matter from all nations for every year since the time of Gutenberg, together with the presses and other machines marking the progress of the world in this most useful art. There is to be a machinery section showing everything in connection with the mechanical departments of the best printing establishments in operation. There will also be a display of fine engraving and other products of the art. Finally it is the purpose of the promoters to found in Mayence a permanent Gutenberg museum. It is expected that many who visit the Paris Exposition will go to Mayence also for the purpose of studying the great object lesson on the progress made in the printing trades.

Sailors Scarce in Germany.

With the rapid growth of the German Navy and the German marine there has been an increasing scarcity of native crews, especially in respect of trained young sailors. A few years ago Germany furnished a large portion of the crews of English vessels, but to-day the crews of German vessels are partly composed of foreigners. This change is due chiefly to the phenomenal rise of German industry, which has been accompanied by a uniform rise in wages paid for skilled labor, which has acted as an incentive to draw away from a seafaring life.

It is already foreseen that, with the doubling of the German Navy now contemplated, this difficulty will increase, and steps are being taken to meet it. At Bremen the North German Lloyd Company is organizing a cadet school to train young men for the company's service.—Berlin Correspondence New York Times.

Prophetic Letter of a Transvaaler.

The following extract from a letter written shortly before the war in the Transvaal, from an official of President Kruger's government to a correspondent here, is viewed in the light of recent events, almost prophetic: "As I predicted to you four years ago, war is upon us. We are again compelled to fight for our firesides, but do not despair for us. Our strength is very much underestimated. Every home is an arsenal, every man, woman and child can shoot, and the righteousness of our cause directs our aim straight. The first victories will be with us, and you need not be surprised after these victories to see the Dutch from all over South Africa flocking to our banners. The English may, of course, be ultimately successful, but I believe there is a future for the men of my race in South Africa."—Washington Correspondence New York Tribune.

Regiment's Flag in the Sanctuary.

A striking ceremony, like those of the days of the Crusaders, was witnessed at Canterbury, England, when a large company of the East Kent Regiment, known as the "Buffs," marched to the Cathedral escorting the regimental colors, which were placed in the sanctuary.

Dean Farrar accepted the custody of the colors, conducted the impressive ceremony and addressed words of sympathy and encouragement to the soldiers, who were about to sail for Africa.

British regiments no longer carry their precious colors in foreign wars, but deposit them in their home churches.—New York Journal.

Unsanitary Condition of Pekin.

The three chief characteristics of Pekin, the Chinese capital, which most impress the newly arrived visitor are dust, stench and dogs. There has been no rain since June, and the hideous tracks that are dignified by the title of streets are ankle deep in black dust, much of which is pulverized filth. Along the macadamized streets, of which there are three, are open drains. These serve as sewers from which the sewage is dipped and the highway sprinkled. When it dries the pulverizing is resumed, and, in addition to the original compound, the residuum of the tainted water is breathed into the lungs.—Correspondence New York Tribune.

Great Britain and Abyssinia.

The bestowal of Great Britain of the title of Lord Napier of Magdala on General Napier after the Abyssinian expedition of 1867-8 has given rise to a vague impression that Great Britain once conquered Abyssinia. This impression, however, is erroneous. Great Britain merely took part in the general revolt of all Abyssinia against the Emperor Theodore, defeated the remnant of his army and captured his capital of Magdala, the Emperor having committed suicide rather than surrender. The British Abyssinian expedition numbered only 16,000 combatants.

WOMAN'S WORLD.

MIDWINTER FURS. They Are Generally Used on Hat, Gown and Coat.

It is a season of furs. Not in years have such quantities of beautiful soft sables and feathery chinchilla trimmed so generously hat, gown and coat—to say nothing of the whole frocks lavishly built of baby lamb wool that are regal from a point of expenditure and extremely chic in effect. The many names by which this baby lamb, as we call it, is known, proves rather confusing, and the nationality of your tailor determines under which title you order it. In London it is broad tail; in Paris caracoe, and in Berlin breitschwaun. One of the prettiest of these handsome fur gowns was worn at a fashionable tea the other afternoon. The skirt was perfectly plain and exquisitely hung, while the jacket extended below the waist line in one large scallop just in the centre of the back, and then rounded off toward the front, where there was a decidedly pointed dip. Carved ivory buttons that were not very large served as fasteners. Sable revers and Russian cuffs and collar were the final touch of smartness. When the coat opened there was a glimpse of a most beautiful white satin antique shirt waist, appealingly simple. The hat was also of Court sable, fashioned after an English walking hat—may one be bourgeois and whisper that the hat alone cost \$450? With such hats in their trousseau, women are not likely to discard them, as has been predicted, because cheap imitations are bountiful. If anything, vulgarity of the imitations rather enhances the value of the real. Besides fur hats are far too becoming, and when ordered from clever milliners prove the grand chic of almost any costume.

Up to the present time there has been but little need of fur jackets. However, the last few days have determined that the woman of fashion has shown rather a preference for seal, and in the jaunty short coats there is nothing richer or prettier. Of course the baby lamb jackets hold their own in popularity.

Mr. "Jack" Astor's street baby lamb coat is a very pretty model, with its inlet grille of velvet overlaid with braid. Tiny cut steel round buttons are seen in the front. With this she wore a simple black cloth skirt, and the daintiest of pale blue tucked velvet hats, trimmed with a black choux at one side. Earrings of turquoise surrounded with brilliants gave an extra touch of color that was most becoming.

At Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes's reception a few days ago one of the prettiest and most distinguished costumes was a sable-tail short jacket fastened with blue cameo buttons, surrounded with cut steel, and worn with a gray cloth skirt, and a very flat velvet toque, also of gray.

In fancy inexpensive furs there is a large collection to choose from. The grays, though pretty, are rather passe. Cinnamon bear is smart, and makes a good bonnet and muff. White long-haired bears and muffs are quite the smart touch at the moment. At a recent luncheon just such a set was worn with a pastel-blue costume, and the tout ensemble was good and unusual.

If one is going to order a muff, it is best to stick to the round conventional shape, as it will be found to be more satisfactory in the long run. Some of the fancy fur and velvet muffs are smart, but unless a woman has many such things she will find them tiresome. There has never been a time when clothes were so pretty, if well chosen, but the selection cannot be made too carefully, and in this day of lavish display the woman who knows adheres to simplicity.—New York Times.

As to Noses.

A perfect nose is one of the rarest things to be found in this world. Of the different features of the face the nose is undoubtedly the principal. It can mar or enhance the beauty of a face, no matter how imperfect or perfect the other features may be, and almost always character can be read from the nose. The Roman nose denotes boldness of character, also great business enterprise.

No one envies the possessor of a red nose. This unsightliness is due to many causes. Tight-lacing will eventually cause a red nose; so will some forms of indigestion; also exposure to heat. When the redness is due to indigestion the victim should overcome the cause by careful dieting. For the cure of redness of the nose caused by exposure to the sun or heat a good retring or cold cream applied and allowed to remain on for a while will soothe irritation and remove the tan.

When the redness is determined and painful then the cause is more serious. A form of cancer begins with irritation and redness of the nose, and it is therefore wise to consult a physician when none of the simple remedies avails.

Black heads and enlarged pores on the nose are the most general troubles. The former are very stubborn and hard to eradicate, but a good penetrating retring cream put on to remain overnight and washed off with hot water and a chemically pure soap in the morning will be found very beneficial. It is best, though, to consult a reliable skin specialist. To contract enlarged pores of the nose bathe organ in very hot water, and then splash it immediately with cold water. The shape of the nose is something we cannot greatly alter. In babyhood, when the cartilages of the

nose are soft and pliable, the mother by daily molding the nose as it wants it shaped, can assist nature.

Women's Right to Make Wills.

Men usually make wills as a matter of course. Oftentimes a woman neglects to make a will as much on account of her ignorance of the required form as through negligence. And instead of inquiring into the subject, many dismiss it and vaguely believe that at their death their affairs will be conducted quite as satisfactorily as with a written testament.

Wills may be made by any person not disqualified by age or by mental incapacity, excepting in some States married women. A female over twelve years of age in New Mexico and over sixteen in New York may bequeath her personal property. But eighteen is the age fixed for devising real estate in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Dakota, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Washington, while in the other States the testatrix must be twenty-one years of age.

Married women may devise their separate estates in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Dakota, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. It is necessary in the other States that a married woman have the written consent of her husband before disposing of her property by will.

An unmarried woman's will is legally revoked by marriage, but her property may be arranged in such a manner as to permit her to dispose of it after marriage as she may desire.—Woman's Home Companion.

The New Hats.

It is in the new hats and small bonnets that the greatest departure will immediately take place. While the cry of the fashionables in for the fur toque with plumes of malines and Brussels net, still the well-versed realize that that is no longer a new story from the highest standpoint, though it may be from the popular fashionable standpoint.

A Parisian authority of undoubted position shows a maline toque in which are twined small ermine tails in black and white, the maline being white. The tails run horizontally around the hat and are placed at intervals between the maline, but showing the fur distinctly. The hat is unique and peculiar. The great tendency of the moment is toward lower crowns, flatter hats and smaller diameters.

Hats will undoubtedly turn backward from the face, many strings will come into use and big neck bows of malines net, lace and other materials will quickly come to the front. The Empire following, while not strong, is surely coming.

The hats that best suit the confined outlines of costume of to-day are the small affairs, either low or with tall crowns.—Dry Goods Economist.

Fashion's Fads and Fancies.

Crocheted buttons are revived again. Mistletoe is an adornment newly adopted by the milliners.

A coat back with basque effect and bolero front forms one of the new bodies on an imported gown.

The tops of sleeves continue to be more trimmed either with stitching, cording or some applied decoration. Some of the corduroy velveteen and cloth gowns are trimmed with bands of white kid edged with beaver fur.

Graduated fringe is one of the novelties, and it is far more graceful than the straight variety. It is found in all lengths with a knotted beading.

Something new in skirt lining, of English make, is called morveline. It is very fine, soft and silky, resembles moire, and comes in a great variety of colors.

Silver fox boas with two feet and the pointed head of the animal at one end and two feet and the bushy tail at the other are decidedly the fashion, for young ladies especially.

Hats with decided and rather high crowns are becoming rather popular, but the latest advice from Paris assure us that it is the hat with the broad, low crown which is the novelty.

A very beautiful example of the ever-popular black and white contrast is an elegant costume of black cloth combined with black and white figured velvet, black silk passementerie and black and white buttons.

The smart form of the fashionable lace sleeve is a mitten finish over the back of the hand, kept in place by a very narrow band around the thumb or one of the fingers. Several small buttons fasten this sleeve at the wrist.

A beaver brown cloth coat stitched with white silk and completed with a collar and revers of grebe, is one of the season's developments in the department of outdoor garments, which has surpassed all previous records in the production of varied styles.

A useful petticoat just received from Paris is built of lavender flannel, closely fitting the hips and reaching to the knees, where it is extended to the proper length, with a deep silk flounce covered with a number of small ruffles edged in turn with lace. This novelty combines warmth and style.

Some of the skirts made with the box-plaited backs and plain fronts are effective, notwithstanding the killing comment with which they were launched, that they are particularly becoming to bad figures. That was in comparison with the sheath skirt. Perhaps they are, but it would not be safe for a very bad figure to rely upon the plaits alone for style preservers.

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