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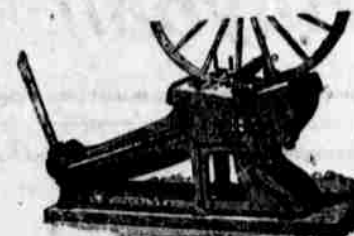
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PINK MONKEYS IN DANGER.

World's Supply of Absinthe May Be Shut Off by Switzerland.

Pea green elephants, pink monkeys and white blackbirds, together with the flock of flamingoes which absinthe drinkers insist have roamed at will about Central park, may soon become extinct by reason of the action of the Swiss government.

Nearly the entire quantity of absinthe imported into the United States is distilled in the canton of Neuchatel in Switzerland. Virtually all of it that is imported goes to the three cities of New York, New Orleans and San Francisco.

Because of the great evil resulting from the habitual use of poison, there is a movement on foot in Switzerland to prohibit the production of absinthe and even to forbid its sale within the republic.

The manufacture or distillation of absinthe is a government monopoly in Switzerland. The estimated revenue to the government is about \$1,000,000 a year. This revenue is distributed by the government among the various cantons or provinces with the proviso that 10 per cent of it must be expended in promoting the cause of temperance.

Now prohibition is in the ascendency in Switzerland and is seeking a constitutional amendment to forbid the distillation and sale of absinthe and to enforce absolute prohibition through the entire republic.

The movement, according to Consul Gifford at Basel, has given a great impetus because of the fact of an absinthe-crazed father in the canton of Vaud, in killing his wife and children.

With any diminution in supply in Switzerland the importation to the United States must come from a new source.

CHANCE FOR A DULL PUPIL.

Educational Experiment Which Has Solved Most Vexing Modern Problem.

The superintendent of the schools of Batavia, N. Y., has apparently solved one of the most vexing questions which have to do with modern education. It is a realization of the Pestalozzian theory that each pupil has a right to be educated personally for what he can best achieve. For many years it has been charged against the public school system that the standards were set for the clever pupils to the detriment of the backward and dull ones. If the "Batavia experiment," as it is called, proves after long trial to do what it is hoped it will then primary education will be infinitely bettered.

Mr. Kennedy, the originator of the scheme, proposed to the governing board of Batavia to procure the services of an extra teacher for each room whose duty it should be to listen to recitations, but to help encourage any pupils who were failing behind the class. It was to be entirely a work of sympathy and demanded great tact and discernment. The plan was tried in a single room and the result was so marked in both pupils and teachers that the experiment has spread rapidly and is being introduced in all the better schools in the United States.

Its value can not be overestimated. The teachers are stimulated to do less nagging, while the pupils themselves are relieved from going beyond their ability and strength. And the effect on health of the children was also marked. No books were taken home for night study and six times the number of pupils remained to graduate from the high school.

THE INTELLECTUAL DRINKS

The Beverages Which Stimulate the Brain Are Non-Alcoholic.

"Tea and coffee are drugs—drugs solely," said a chemist. "They stimulate the brain, and the reaction from this stimulation is not perceptible. Hence tea and coffee are excellent brain spurs. For a little while they do, actually, make us more intelligent than we naturally are. That is why they are so popular. It is why we chemists call them intellectual drinks.

"Alcohol, whether it be taken in the form of champagne or beer or whisky, is not an intellectual drink, but the opposite. From the beginning alcohol stupefies instead of enlivening the brain. But it makes us talk! If it were not enlivening, how should it make us talk? Alas, alcohol makes us talk, but we say under its influence the things we should not. Alcohol deadens the inhibitory, the prohibitory centers of the brain. It stupefies the brain muscle which knows what things should not be told. And hence, while drinking we talk, but oh, the things we say, and oh, how we blush in the cold gray light of the morning after to remember what we said."

All the Aids to Comfort.

"Speaking of accommodating hotel clerks," remarked a Portland traveler, "the best I ever saw was in a town near Bangor. I reached the hotel late in the evening and was assigned to a pretty tidy looking room. Just before I retired I heard a scampering under the bed and looked under, expecting to see a burglar. Instead, I saw a couple of large rats just escaping into their hole. I dressed and went down to the office and put in a big kick. The clerk was as serene as a summer breeze.

"I'll fix that all right, sir," he said. "Front! Take a cat to 23 at once."—Minneapolis Tribune.

WOULD TASTE AS SWEET.

Sandwich Under Any Other Name Easier for the Waiter to Spell.

A busy man hastened into one of the quick-lunch "cafays" that are popular in a portion of the city, and, after smiling at the blonde whose duty it is to ring up fares on the cash register, called to the colored waiter:

"Bring me a sandwich and a glass of milk, and be quick about it."

The son of Ham bolted away and quickly returned with the desired food and drink.

"Give me my check, quick. I am in a hurry."

The waiter pulled out a pad of paper and a pencil and began to scrawl several weird hieroglyphics on the paper. In response to the sharp, "Come, hurry up," the waiter made a final desperate attempt and handed the man a check on which was written "One piece pie, one milk."

"Here," said the guest as he deciphered the characters on the slip of paper, "I didn't order any pie."

"I know dat, boss," responded the abashed waiter, "but pie and sandwich costs jes' de same, and I can't spell sandwich."

And the blonde cashier smiled sweetly as she invited the man to call again.

HE KNEW ABOUT APPLES.

And Was Willing to Keep the Dealer from Imposing on a Buyer.

Not long ago a man was about to purchase a barrel of apples at the establishment of a produce dealer. They appeared to be especially fine ones, but an old farmer standing near whispered to him to look in the middle of the barrel, relates Sturm's Statehood.

This the would-be purchaser did, to find that with the exception of a layer at each end the apples were small and inferior.

"I'm much obliged," he said, turning to the old farmer.

"I've got some nice ones on my wagon I jest brought in," the old fellow ventured, diffidently.

"I'll take a barrel from you, then," the man said, paying him the price and giving his address for their delivery.

"Say," a bystander asked, as the purchaser walked away, "how did you know those apples in the center of the barrel were no good?"

A twinkle came into the old codger's eye.

"O, that was one of my barrels," he said.

Washed Air to Breathe.

"Dust doesn't appear to get into your building," said a depositor to H. T. Abernethy, cashier of the First National bank, "and the air seems unusually fresh, too."

"It's the work of the air filter," said the cashier. "The air we breathe here comes into the building through a shower."

The top of the air shaft on the new bank building is above the tops of the surrounding chimneys. By means of a turbine fan the air is drawn down the shaft to the basement, through a continuous shower of cold water, and is sent up through the ventilating shafts. In the winter this air is heated as it is sent from the shower.—Kansas City Times.

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Cry for Land and Liberty.

It is stated that the estimate of the money needed by the Russian government for aid to the famine-stricken provinces would amount to nearly \$40,000,000 this year. The peasants are starving, partly in consequence of lack of land to cultivate, partly because of specially bad crops this year. Meanwhile the rent of land is steadily rising. According to the latest report of the Peasants' bank the average rent per desiatin rose in 12 years from 39 rubles to 108 rubles. No wonder that the cry of the peasants is for "land and liberty." And the "reasonably fertile land remaining is that of private owners, the public domain being mostly swampy or forest land.

Vive la Culture!

A modest "returing by re a dress-makers' club told the members that the dressmaker must know more than anyone else in the world, and she advised them to study art, music, literature and the drama. Vive la culture! We cannot have too much of it. Hereafter, when madam goes to have a fitting, she will not only hear of chiffon, but also of Chaucer, of passementerie and Pater, of mouselline de soie and Mendelssohn, of shirring and Shaw, taffeta and Turner. But, horrors! what if the barber should add art, music, literature and the drama to his conversational repertoire!—The Reader.

REMARKABLE SODA SPRING.

Has Formed Vast Bed of Solid Salts Through Which Stream Passes.

Undoubtedly one of the most remarkable springs in the world has recently been discovered in New Mexico. It is literally a spring, says the Engineering and Mining Journal, saturated with sodium sulphate. Distilled water weighs 8.33 pounds to the gallon. The water of this spring weighs 16.66 pounds per gallon; its evaporation yields 3.13 pounds of dry solid matter, of which 83 per cent is sulphate of soda, crystallizing out chemically pure.

The sulphate of soda crystal contains 57 per cent water. At 110 degrees F. it melts in its own water of crystallization; and the temperature of the spring being slightly in excess of 110 degrees F., the saturated liquid upon overboiling and cooling immediately forms a crystalline mass like ice.

The natural inquiry arises as to the deposit or accumulation of ages from this spring; for, unless it discharged into a stream of fresh water, the deposit would be vast in extent. No more fitting location could be imagined, for it is in the lowest portion of a vast sink or basin, scores of miles in extent.

The deposit, therefore, has formed a vast bed, miles in extent, of solid sodium salts, through which this spring, by reason of its heat, maintains its channel and continues to augment the deposit. Inasmuch as the soda crystal effloresces, or gives up its water by evaporation, the elements serve to smooth and level the surface; so that the lake, though dry, is white as snow and bears some resemblance to a northern lake in the embrace of winter.

LUNACY AS A PROFESSION.

Isle of Wight Man Evinces an Unaccountable Desire to Stay in An Asylum.

A man has just been discharged from the Isle of Wight asylum under extraordinary circumstances, having twice feigned madness with such success that he was committed to that institution as a dangerous lunatic. Ten years ago he started on his career as a professional "lunatic," and he was the first inmate of the Isle of Wight asylum. At that time he was soon discharged, as the asylum authorities were satisfied he was shamming.

About a month ago he arrived at Cowes from Southampton, where, seemingly under the influence of drink, he was chasing children and women in the streets and acting in an extraordinary manner. When taken to the police station he spoke of military relations and millions of money, but as the local doctor suspected he was shamming he directed his removal to the workhouse. There he indulged in window smashing, and having done considerable damage he was removed to the asylum as a dangerous lunatic. The medical superintendent at once recognized him and turned him out. The mysterious individual refused to return to the workhouse and has not since troubled the authorities.

CARRIAGES OUST CAMELS.

Wealthy Arabians Have Taken to Riding in the American Vehicles.

Milk white Arabian steeds and all the other color of horses in Arabia, as carriers for travel or pleasure, are being displaced by American built carriages and carts.

Instead of mounting a fleet-footed camel or a horse with the speed of the wind to make his excursions into the desert the Arabian climbs into a buggy or a cart built in Indiana or New York and drives off like any other civilized citizen.

Consul Mortenson at Aden, the chief city of Arabia, reports that of all vehicles imported during the last year three-fourths of them came from the United States.

The American hickory vehicles are preferred to those of India and England because of their stinging qualities. It has been found that the American built wagons, carriages and carts withstand the hot dry climate better than any others.

All of the 150 public carriages in Aden are of American manufacture and are lightly constructed so that one horse may pull four passengers. The real Arab of wealth and fashion likes victorias built in the United States better than any other. He also uses American harness because the makes of other countries are too heavy and cumbersome.

Good Welsh Rabbit Story.

George C. Boldt, the proprietor of the Waldorf-Astoria, told at a banquet of hotel men a Welsh rabbit story.

"Two young men from the country," he said, "visited a New York theater one evening and after the play decided that they would have a little supper."

"They entered a fashionable restaurant, puzzled awhile over the menu and finally hit upon Welsh rabbit."

"Ah," they said, "Welsh rabbit! That sounds good. We'll try a little of it."

"So they ordered the dish and in due course it was set before them."

"But they looked at it in amazement. It was not at all what they had expected. They frowned and muttered."

"But finally one of them smiled and brightened up."

"Ah," he said, "I understand. This is a little bit of bread and cheese to go on with till the rabbit's ready!"



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