

The Enterprise.

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Making Public Libraries.

The most important question for the public library is "What books shall we buy?" In many towns the reading committee is a recognized adjunct of the library, and the librarian has the verdict of several different minds for aid in his task of selecting new books. Most of the voluntary readers are likely to be women, and the service they render the community is a real one, if their judgment and taste are sound. On the other hand, a complaisant commendation of a book as "very interesting" may do actual harm when the book lies in the debatable land between bad and good—the land of current fiction and trashy juveniles. A great meeting of English librarians recently set forth some general principles which should help determine the desirability of books, says the Youth's Companion. First, they declared the notion exploded that a taste for good reading develops from reading poor books. The very contrary is true. The habit of reveling in cheap fiction is destructive of a wholesome pleasure in sound reading. The love of books, like the love of virtue, feeds in high, clean, sweet pastures, not in refuse, and not even on "junks." Again, the demand for certain books does not require the public library to supply them. It is a specious argument that the taxpayers' money should answer the taxpayers' desire. More than 60 per cent. of the books drawn from public libraries are works of fiction. The thin, tasteless stream of modern fiction is too often the library's chief offering to the community. Certain libraries adopt the rigorous measure of buying no fiction until it is a year old. The librarians agreed that the rule is an excellent one, if it is slightly elastic in its actual application. At all events, the helpful advisory reader for the public library is the man or woman who believes that in proportion as a good book is a blessing, a poor book is a curse.

It seems incredible that in so civilized a country as Italy a man can have remained in prison untried for 38 years. Yet the government is about to dispose of a case which has been pending since 1870. On September 18 of that year two boys, aged 11 and eight years, started for a gunsmith's with their father's pistol to be repaired. On the way they quarreled, and the elder shot the younger, probably by accident. The elder was arrested by the police authorities, then the rulers of Rome; but before he could be brought to trial the temporal power of the pope was taken away. By 1882 the new power in Rome had reached the case and was ready to try it; but the death penalty was abolished about this time, and this caused fresh delay. Now, if he is so fortunate, the boy, now a middle-aged man, will either be discharged from custody or be formally punished.

At the present rate of progress in shipbuilding new terms will have to be devised to describe adequately the marine monsters. "Leviathans of the deep" seems a tame expression when applied to some of the new craft. Two now under construction will be 1,000 feet in length and of 60,000 tons displacement. That means 238 feet longer than the Lusitania and Mauretania and nearly double the carrying capacity of those ships. The Spanish armada lives in history as one of the great naval forces. Yet the entire tonnage of the armada was 59,120, or considerably less than that of one of the new steamers. Modern skill in naval construction, with the improved means of generating and applying power, makes these seeming miracles possible.

There is no doubt that most people ruin their teeth and digestive system by taking food at too high a temperature. One cannot get into a hot bath if it is over 112 degrees; 105 degrees is dangerous, and even 100 degrees is warm. But from experiments it appears that we eat meat at 115 degrees, potatoes at 150 degrees. The average temperature of tea is 135 degrees, and it may be sipped, but cannot be swallowed in large quantities if it exceeds 142 degrees.

Dr. Cook, who is looking for the north pole, writes that the boys are looking well and that he has plenty of dogs. No wonder the boys are looking well. Dog in that country is such a pleasant change from a steady diet of canned goods.

A brother of the "King of Kurdistan" has applied for naturalization papers in this country. Being a brother of the "King of Kurdistan" isn't a very good job, evidently.

Wright aeroplanes will soon be on the market at \$4,000 apiece, which shows that high flying is going to be as expensive a game as eevr.

Good Health says that nuts "bought in the shell are also absolutely clean." Yes, even the fat, round worms in the chestnuts are very white.

English woman suffragists think their magna charta is a long time in being handed to them.

At the National Capital

Gossip of People and Events Gathered in Washington

Next Mistress of the White House



WASHINGTON.—When Mrs. Roosevelt leaves Washington next March her place as "first lady of the land" and mistress of the White House will be taken by a woman gracious and tactful, of broad culture and intellectual strength, a fit hostess for the presidential mansion and a fit helpmeet for the president.

Mrs. William Howard Taft is no stranger to the White House. During her husband's term of secretary of war she was a frequent guest of Mrs. Roosevelt's and almost invariably held her place in the receiving line at the large presidential receptions.

In her girlhood days Mrs. Taft, then Helen Herron, was the house guest for several weeks of President and Mrs. Hayes. This visit is said to be one of Mrs. Taft's most highly-prized recollections, but it may be that in the

earlier day in the White House no thought entered the head of the young girl guest that one day she would be mistress of the mansion.

The new cares and social duties which Mrs. Taft will have to take on may tax her strength to the utmost, but it is probably true that there could not be found a woman better fitted for the place than the wife of the next president. She has individuality, strength of character and an independence of belief, added to a mind of rare cultivation, the result of years of study and travel. She has devoted herself to the care of her home and children and the seconding of her husband's public career, and in the latter capacity she has familiarized herself with the great questions of the day.

So well equipped educationally is Mrs. Taft that she will not only be able to converse intelligently on subjects of public interest with her own countrymen, but being a linguist, she will be able to discourse familiarly with foreign statesmen and diplomats in their own tongues. It is said that Mrs. Taft has devoted a part of each day for years to the study of languages and music, and in both has attained a proficiency reached only by the few.

Great Problem for Country Life Body



THOUSANDS of the half million farmers, teachers, physicians, business men and others who were invited to co-operate with the commission on country life have already sent in replies to the list of questions asked them, although the ink is hardly dry on the printed sheets rushed out to them.

The members of the commission which was appointed by President Roosevelt to conduct this extensive inquiry into the conditions of farm life the country over, have a problem of perhaps greater magnitude to work out than ever came before a similar commission. Not only is the subject of the inquiry one of great importance, but the breadth of its scope is such as to require the varied conditions of the whole country to be taken into account. The amount of work involved will hardly be realized by the casual reader. The mere reading of the letters which are flooding in each day in answer to the questions is a difficult, though most interesting, task, for the commission's incoming mail is running from 3,000 to 5,000 pieces a day.

And this is not all. There is vastly more ahead for the commission's interest in by no means confined to those who happened to be on the list of 600,000 to whom the questions have

just been mailed. Only a comparatively few of the farmers and their families could be reached in that way, and hence the newspapers have been enlisted to bring the inquiry to the attention of the widest circle of readers it is possible to reach. The field covered is so broad that it touches the interest of every one familiar with country-life conditions. This is shown by the list of questions which are being asked the people of the country.

Under each question an explanation for the reason of the condition is asked, and suggestions as to what should be done are invited. The pith of the whole matter is contained in the concluding question: What, in your judgment, is the most important single thing to be done for the general betterment of country life?

The commission is anxious to hear from everyone who is acquainted with or interested in conditions surrounding the farm, and letters will reach their destination safely if simply addressed to the Commission on Country Life, Washington, D. C. The questions may be replied to by number, or any special phase of the subject discussed.

The rich experience of men who have spent their lives on the farm should prove most helpful, and out of it should come a wide expression of opinion and practical suggestions for the consideration of the commission. Never before in this country or any other has such an opportunity been offered to the farmers to present their views and their needs, and the ultimate success of the inquiry will depend in large measure on their co-operation.

Widow May Sell Valuable Art Treasures



IF IT is true that Baron Speck von Sternburg left all his fine old silver and art treasures to his widow and that she prefers to convert the curious into cash American collectors will have a rare opportunity to obtain antiques.

Von Sternburg spent a good part of his big income in gathering silver, Oriental bronzes and tapestry. It is said that he carried \$100,000 insurance on his collection, and that his bronzes and ivories surpassed many public museum collections.

Washington gossipers say the baron could leave his widow, who was Lillian Langham of Louisville, only his private possessions, as his father is still living and none of the ancestral

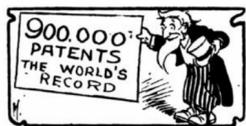
wealth had come down to Speck. From his mother, however, he received rich salt mines in Galicia, and from these he derived his wealth.

The state dining hall and the drawing rooms of the Von Sternburg home are filled with silver sconces and carved pieces that represent the oldest signed work of workers at Nuremberg and Bruges.

Certain sconces were part of the booty obtained by the baron's ancestor, Gen. Baron von Sternburg, who took a conspicuous part in the Thirty Years' war. The sconces belonged to an abbey near Dresden and bore mortuary tablets of dead abbots. When the sconces came to adorn Castle Sternburg the records of the Benedictines were removed and glass placed instead.

The great swan that was a conspicuous ornament on the Sternburg buffet attracted the attention of J. Pierpont Morgan when he was entertained in the embassy. This piece, it is believed, will go to the Morgan collection.

American Patents Reach 900,000 Mark



THE nine hundred thousandth patent from the United States patent office has been issued, and to it was attached the name of Patent Commissioner Moore.

The patent was an improvement on traveling stairs, such as are used in hotels and other large buildings, and while Mr. Moore ordinarily attaches only his last name, with his initials, he signalled the attainment of the nine hundred thousandth by using his full name of Edward Bruce Moore.

In the early history of the nation the law required that patents should be signed by the president, and as the first one was issued during the first presidential administration it was signed by President Washington. It covered a device for making pearl ashes, and the document itself is said to be now owned by a Chicago collector. Mr. Moore estimates that the one millionth patent will be reached in the year 1911.

As going to show the inventive tendency of the American mind, as compared with other countries, Mr. Moore calls attention to the fact that notwithstanding this is among the newest

of nations the total of patents issued by the United States is not very far below the total for all other countries for all time. The issuance of foreign patents up to the date of last reports was 1,135,000, or only 235,000 in excess of the total for this country.

About the Ball Player.

What becomes of all the baseball players after the season closes? Where do these heroes of the diamond hibernate? Do they go to their homes or do they pass the winter months in the cities in which their teams are? There are thousands of players, and many of them never are heard of after the ball and bat are laid away. It's only the "stars" whose names get in print between seasons. These players, who give the fans so much entertainment from April to October, I understand, come from all parts of the country. Often they make a reputation in little country towns and villages, and are "discovered" by big league scouts and developed into stars. When a player is "brought out" in the big leagues and he does not "make good" at once he is sent to the minor leagues for more "seasoning." Then sometimes he comes back and fills the bill satisfactorily. The baseball business from a humble beginning has grown enormously, and the rivalry is so keen that the clubs are forced to invest heavily every year in new material to keep the teams keyed up for the pennant races.—New York Press.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

NEXT INDIANA GOVERNOR



Thomas R. Marshall, Democratic governor-elect of Indiana, was an attorney of Columbia City, before his nomination for the highest office in the state by his party.

Mr. Marshall poked his head up above the level of comparative obscurity several months ago, and captured the Democratic nomination for governor of Hoosierdom. It was not so much of a capture, for the Democratic nomination for governor of Indiana has been a sort of honorary position for the past dozen or so years. Almost anybody who was serious in asking for it could get it. John W. Kern has had it once or twice.

Up to that moment, Mr. Marshall was an unknown quantity outside his immediate neighborhood. He had not been an important factor in Democratic affairs—even Democratic affairs in Indiana, where, as has been intimated, the Democracy didn't have many affairs. The Republicans with glad acclaim nominated James E. Watson, congressman, spellbinder par excellence, G. O. P. whip in congress, protege and favorite of Uncle Joe Cannon and second lieutenant in the Hoosier favorite son brigade. It seemed as if everybody wanted that sure-fire Republican nomination this year, and Watson won after a stiff fight. The party papers hailed him as practically already elected, and Watson himself began to pick out the grocery where the family trading would be done for four years.

There has been a good deal of a change since then. The saloon question made some of it, the present Hanly administration in Indiana made considerably more of it, the national campaign did the rest. The Democrats took heart and put up a fight. The Republicans began to fight among themselves and split up. Marshall stock shot skyward, while Watson stock tumbled, and the result of the recent election was not entirely unexpected.

DEFEATED FOR GOVERNORSHIP



James E. Watson, ex-congressman and defeated Republican candidate for governor of Indiana, is one of the Hoosier state's "young men eloquent."

"Jim" Watson, as he is almost universally known in Indiana, is one of the premiere spellbinders of a state that ranks second only to Kentucky in the matter of eloquent political orators. Starting without family or financial aids, Watson's mellifluous tongue has carried him along to notable political successes at an unusually early age. In the house he was for some time the G. O. P. whip, and was counted among the favorites of "Uncle Joe" Cannon.

One thing generally conceded to have been a big factor in his defeat was the action of Gov. Hanly in bringing the saloon question to a legislative focus during the campaign.

Gov. Hanly, a strong enemy to the saloon, was in control of the legislature which met in January last, and kept it busy most of its constitutional life of 61 days in passing his pet measures. But the liquor question was not out of the way when the time came for adjournment and the governor, whose term expires before the next regular session, contented himself with warning the departing lawmakers that he expected them to finish the work at their next session.

In some manner the retiring executive received the impression that his successor might not be as earnest in his war on the demon rum as the present administration. He accordingly called the legislature back in special session and succeeded after a lively fight in crowding his local option bill through that body with a slender majority of two or three votes. The measure was promptly signed and is now a law. It provides for a vote by counties on the question of license or no license. The Democrats had agreed to vote for a bill providing for ward and township option. But party lines were not strictly followed in the vote.

In both parties are influences of more or less strength politically which are opposed to drastic legislation on the liquor question. That the Republican party lost its share of these elements is believed to have been the cause of Watson's defeat.

BREAKER BOY TO CONGRESS



"From the coal mines to congress" is suggested as the title for an interesting story of the life of Michael F. Conry of New York, who has been elected on the Democratic ticket for the seat in congress that up to this year has been held by W. Bourke Cockran. The rapid rise of Mr. Conry, who began life as a breaker boy in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, and the hard fight that he made to get to the top of the ladder, is one that is seldom equaled.

Born in Shenandoah, Pa., 38 years ago, Mr. Conry was put to work as a breaker boy when he reached the age of eight years. For five years he worked in the mines, studying evenings as much as he could. At 13 he quit work and with the assistance of friends went to school. He studied so hard and progressed so rapidly that at the age of 16 he was given a position as teacher of a primary grade. While doing this he himself continued to study, and at the age of 20 had advanced so far that he was given the position of principal of the local high school in his town. He held this post for three years, acting at the same time as correspondent for several newspapers.

In that way he managed to get together enough money to pay his way through college, where he took up the study of law. After graduating he settled at Scranton, Pa., where after a few years he entered politics, and with such success that he was given the nomination for congress from that district. His opponent at this time was William Connell, who was a multi-millionaire coal operator. Although practically without funds, the young lawyer waged a strenuous battle, going into the coal region and making more than a hundred speeches during the campaign. Connell was elected by a slight margin, and Conry decided then to go to New York to continue his fight for fame.

He located in the Twelfth congressional district and immediately became a member of the Tammany hall organization. In a short time he was recognized as a bright young lawyer and was given several important duties by Mr. Murphy. He was appointed to the office of assistant corporation counsel and held this position until two years ago, when he resigned and engaged in a four-cornered fight for the leadership of the Sixteenth assembly district, which post was held at that time by Fire Commissioner Lantry.

NOTED RUSSIAN PATRIOT



Nicholas Tchaikovsky, the aged Russian patriot, who has been imprisoned in St. Petersburg for nearly a year, has finally been released through a fund subscribed in England to cover the bail demanded by the Russian government.

Tchaikovsky was arrested about a year ago in St. Petersburg carefully disguised, having sacrificed his venerable beard among other things. The arrest came just at a time when the police were most fearful of plots that caused consternation. He had been picked up on general principles and was held several days before his identity became known.

He was immediately clapped into a darkest dungeon and the dragnet set to work, for it was feared his presence meant some great plot.

Tchaikovsky founded the first revolutionary circle in Russia. Now there are thousands. His activity caused him to change his residence to London, from where he directed affairs in his native land. He left there and entered Russia on a forged passport by way of Finland. The path then led to the prison.

For some time the patriot's wife has been endeavoring to obtain his parole, fearing the confinement would kill him. Finally bail was fixed at \$25,000, and relatives given a short time to collect the amount. Strenuous work was necessary.

Tchaikovsky was in America two years seeking revolutionary funds.

American Women's Garden in Tokyo.

The things that can grow in the limited space of a Japanese garden are unbelievable. There is a clump of bamboo; a persimmon tree, camellias, camellias, cherries, plums and fine-leaved red maple. Under these grow bushes of azalea, the nanten with its scarlet berries and the yamabuki with its brilliant yellow flowers. As if this were not enough, on a bench of gnarled wood, in Japanese pots of old blue and gray, some of the large trees are repeated in miniature—pines, firs, and an lcho tree which look centuries

old though only a foot or two high. Perhaps the most treasured spot in the garden is a bed of cowslips which made a long journey from a certain home bed in California. There are other reminders of home in the climbing roses and wistaria which trail over a bamboo trellis.—From the Craftsman.

Peculiar Taste in Tattooing.

Tattooed portraits of the last six French presidents were found on the skin of a burglar named Bertin arrested in Paris.

TALK OF NEW YORK

Gossip of People and Events Told in Interesting Manner.

Election Night a Wild One on Broadway



NEW YORK.—Never in history did Broadway, center of New York's celebrating crowds, hold such a mass of people as slowly moved up and down its sidewalks from early evening on election night until dawn the next day. Between the flatirons, from Madison square to Longacre square, the walks and the street itself were filled with a densely packed election throng. The police, who lined the curbs, worked the crowd into some sort of order. Those bound uptown were herded on the east side of the street, while the west side was reserved for those going in the opposite direction.

Noise was the most prominent characteristic of the crowd, but this was almost equaled by the people's good

nature. The carnival spirit was high. Men and women laughed when enormous tin horns were blown in their ears, when they were showered with confetti, when "ticklers" were thrust into their faces, and even when hats were broken and plumes were torn off. The greatest crowds gathered in front of the uptown newspaper offices, where bulletins of the election were flashed on gigantic screens. If there was any noise-making device that was not present on the street it was because enterprising fakery failed to know it.

Tin horns, old-fashioned police rattles, shrill whistles, enormous cowbells, automobile horns, and 1,000 other ear-cracking inventions were on every hand, while the skies rained confetti. Thousands of people visited the theaters. In practically all of which election returns, most of them invented for the occasion, were read between and during acts. When the performances were over the theater attendants joined the crowds on the sidewalks.

No New Ruler of Gotham Society Likely



IN social circles there is much discussion these days of the question of Mrs. Astor's successor as society's leader. Among the names mentioned are Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. Clarence Mackay and Mrs. Ogden Golet. All of these matrons are leaders of their respective coteries, and have taken prominent parts in social affairs here and abroad. There is a prevailing belief, however, that the "400" of old has ceased to exist as a unit, and that it will henceforth be in many divisions, with leaders for each.

Frederick Townsend Martin, successor to the late Ward McAllister as leader of New York society, said there will be no successor to Mrs. Astor as New York's society queen.

"I do not think there will be a successor to Mrs. Astor as the ruler of New York society," he said. "Her illness was so protracted that for some years society has gone ahead without

her. It is true her influence was very marked at all times, but she did not participate actively in affairs, and marked changes have occurred since her reign ceased to be absolute. "Society is no longer a unit. When it was dominated by Mrs. Astor there was perfect unanimity and harmony. Now it is divided into many cliques, and I do not believe any one person will ever succeed in bringing these together again."

Mrs. Astor came by birth of old Knickerbocker stock. Before her marriage to the late William Astor, second son of William B. Astor, and grandson of the original John Jacob Astor, she was Caroline Schermerhorn. Her family name was among those honored in the old New York and the original Schermerhorn homestead was in the borough of Brooklyn. It was in 1853 that Caroline Schermerhorn and William Astor were married. The bridegroom was 23. He died in 1893.

Mrs. Astor's townhouse at 824 Fifth avenue, has long been one of the more notable of the avenue's objects of interest to the sightseer visiting New York, and seeking out the abodes of the social mighty as feasts for the eyes. Her establishment, Beechwood, at Newport, has ever been the place of magnificent entertainments.

Heavy Exodus Makes Flat Rents Fall



RENTS of flats are falling. People did not rush back from their summer vacations to crowd into dingy homes as usual. Vacant flats are seen everywhere in the old centers. Prices are down ten per cent. in many sections.

Owners held their rentals firm this fall. Although their vacancies during the summer had been larger than in any other year, they thought that the rush back to town would fill their houses.

But the October moving day startled them. There was less moving than in any of the last five years. And persons who moved went away from the old districts, as a rule, to make their homes in new buildings such as those on Washington Heights.

Registration figures show that more than 100,000 persons have moved out of Manhattan during the past two years. Aside from this big shift, 50,000 more have moved into the Washington Heights districts.

Nor does the movement away from

old crowded city home districts show the entire two-year loss in flat-house tenancy. Over 200,000 immigrants a year, or 400,000 for the past two years, would have sought homes in New York if conditions had been like those of the four preceding years. Most of them would have crowded into immigrant sections, thus causing an overflow that would have driven older residents from other neighborhoods.

But, instead of gaining 200,000 immigrants a year, New York has lost nearly 100,000 immigrants since the panic. They flocked home, carrying over \$50,000,000 in savings.

From the immigrant movement alone New York has 300,000 less people than would have been here if conditions had been normal. Nearly all would have been crowded into the older tenement districts, for immigrants are clanish, and keep together in spite of the higher rents which they are forced to pay because they do not spread out. And the movement of older families away from congested centers, as is shown by the registrations of schools and voters, has taken another 100,000.

This loss of 400,000 persons is the direct cause of the mass of vacant flats, because owners were calculating on a continuance of the crowded conditions and rapid growth which had prevailed during the preceding decade.

Portrait Painter Sues Rich Woman



GEORGE BURROUGHS TORREY, the American portrait painter, whose portrait of President Roosevelt has become famous, has brought suit against Mrs. John H. Hanan, the beautiful society woman of New York and Narragansett Pier, for \$4,000, alleging breach of contract.

In speaking of the case, Mr. Torrey said:

"More than a year ago Mrs. Hanan sat for me a number of times, then seemed to lose interest in the matter. Several months ago the portrait was practically finished, but I could not persuade Mrs. Hanan to sit again. "She was traveling a great deal, and while she seemed immensely pleased with the painting, and all of her friends who saw it were enthusiastic, it was impossible for me to get her to come to my studio or to take the painting as it was. The very fact that she had posed so often, however, constituted a contract.

"Finally, I had to place the matter in the hands of my lawyer. I have painted some of the best-known and greatest people in the world, including the queen of England, the king of Greece, Andrew Carnegie, Purdon Clarke and many others, and I consider the portrait of Mrs. Hanan one of the best I have ever done."

Mrs. Hanan was Edith Evelyn Briggs of Narragansett before she married the wealthy Charles Talbot Smith of Newport. Mr. Smith died in

1894, just as his wife was about to be divorced from him.

A few years later, just after she had married Joseph H. Thompson, Jr., she was followed to Newport by the millionaire shoe manufacturer, Hanan of Brooklyn, who had lavished presents upon her and who demanded them back. Mrs. Thompson went to Europe with her husband. There was a divorce later, however, and, after Mr. Hanan's wife had also obtained a divorce, he married Mrs. Thompson.

Consumption and the Telephone.

The panic recently created on the subject of the assumed danger lurking in the transmitter of the telephone is not precisely new. It is but the development of a fear which has caused misgiving for some years, as is pointed out by the British Medical Journal. On the supposition, it says, that various germs of disease probably collect in the receiver and transmitter of the instrument, at any rate in public telephone stations, some medical alarmists have thrown out suggestions that antiseptics, both in a dry state and in solution, should be applied for the safety of the telephone user. The recent dictum goes one step further, inasmuch as it is now an established fact that tubercle bacilli, the casual micro-organisms of consumption, have been found—alive and in robust condition—in the instrument. It is quite natural, in view of such a find, that a feeling of alarm might seize hold of the more nervous.—Current Literature.

Lighthouse of Bamboo.

A lighthouse of bamboo which is in use in Japan, is said to have great power of resisting the waves, and does not rot like ordinary wood.