cussion.

CHINA'S FIRST LADY.

The Empress Dowager Said to Have English Blood.

Memarkable Intellect and Wonderful Characteristics of the Womnies of the Chinese.

Few propie are aware that the empress downger is credibly believed by well-informed people in China, Japan and India to have British blood in her veins! There is no doubt that ther mother was a European, though whether British, Portuguese or Rusmian deponent saith not, says the Lontoon Sketch. Though close on 70 years of age, she is still a good artist, and is said by those familiar with the Chinese language to be a fine poet. Some 13 years ago she solemnly premented a long poem of her own composition to the Hanlin college. Translation of those articles dealing with Chinese affairs appearing in leading European newspapers are carefully wead by her, so she is quite aware of the jealousy and suspicion which animate the powers the moment the Chinese problem comes under dis-

Very, very few of the millions whom she rules with an iron hand have ever seen the empress downger. As regards all outward forms and geremonies, she is intensely conservative, and it is said that she even discurses high affairs of state through a door and through a curtain. The Purple Forbidden City - in other words, the imperial palace, at Peking-is a huge human rabbit-warren, for there must dwell all those connected with the court, with the nominal emperor, his harem, and the thousand eunuchs who wait on the fingerial family, and who aid the empress dowager in bringing on her enemies the mysterious disease, "pressed in anger of the inside." which has resmoved so many unpleasant people from her path, including, it is said, two empress consorts.

Tsze-Hsi enjoys wonderful health, and nowhere is her remarkable intellect more shown than in the matter of doctors and hygiene. She early grasped the fact that European women owed their strength of body and maind to their habit of taking a great deal of exercise. Accordingly, she learned to wrestle, and each morning takes it out of herself in this, for a Chinese lady, astounding fashion. Then, again, she is a great believer in the efficacy of cold water, and she has a horror of doctors and of smoreerers-indeed, she sends for one conly when she requires the loan of a peculiarly deadly and potent drug.

It is believed that the empress' own life has been attempted no fewer than 80 times, but, thanks to her wonderfully well-organized detective systemand also, it is but fair to add, to the real affection, and even respect, she inspires in her own faithful band of eunuchs, she has never been seriously injured. Very characteristic is her intense interest in all that concerns Queen Victoria. Pictures cut from London papers and representing the more notable events of the great sovereign's life have been framed and hung up in her inner chambers.

The empress dowager, as her name mand, indeed, early career prove, was sonce a very noted beauty. She has aremained much interested in the art of beauty, and dresses with extraordinary magnificence. On the other hand she remains faithful to the Chinese custom of wearing no precious stones, only very finely wrought golden ornaments and splendidly carved jade. Nothing makes her more contemptuously angry than to see a Chinese woman in European dress or mping any of the ways of a "lady foreign devil."

Filipinos Are Musical. Despite the fact that the American troops are busily engaged in "suppressing" the Filipinos, a striking demand for musical instruments from this country is being made by the people over whom Aguinaldo once ruled. Consul Winter, writing from Annaberg recently, referred to the fact that there are few native Filipinos who do not play some musical instrument, and that the musical talent among them is great. The instruments for which they care most are mandolins, guitars, violins and flutes, and they have derived most of their supply thus far from the Americans. The average Filipino does not lavish money on his musical gleducation, however, and is not able, as a rule, to buy expensive instruments. The Tagals prefer instruments with a showy exterior, and Consul Winter believes the archipelago offers a fine opportunity for the man who gets there soon with a large supply of musical instruments .-- N. Y. Herald.

Oldest Ex-United Sintes Senator. An elderly gentleman who sat behind me in one of the parks, as the maphalt pavements sizzled and baked, maked me if I knew ex-Senator Bradbury, of Maine. "Do you know he is whe oldest living ex-senator, and there were some mighty interesting times when he was here. Let me see! He only lacks two summers of being 100 years old, and his memory and political activity extend well back to the time of Andrew Jackson. Yes, he was mn active man, a forerunner of the great men in congress which the Pine tree state has furnished. I understand he is now living at Augusta, Me., and still takes a keen interest an current political affairs." Later. I secured a photograph of ex-Senator Bradbury from Maine, and it shows him a wonderfully preserved man, 98 years of age .- Joe Mitchell Chapple, in : 1 National magazine.

SELECTING NOTABLES.

Judges Hard at Work in Connection with Hall of Fame.

Trying to Decide Who Are Worth & Place of Honor - Their Task Not an Easy One.

Names of distinguished men or women whose admirers are anxious to secure a niche for them in the Pantheon, or Hall of Fame, are still coming in, and the list now includes close to 5,000

The senate of the New York university, to whom the names are sent from all over the country, has just submitted to each of the judges a list of 134 names. Others are accumulating for disposition later.

The work of the judges is no sinecure, for they are expected to select just 100 who shall occupy the places of honor. Of the thousands of names sent in during the past few months 100 were culled by the senate as a whole, and a second 100 names were submitted by private individuals of note and seconded by members of the senate. Each of the other 34 names was submitted by one or more of the judges, they having been invited to contribute their choice. John S. Billings, one of the resident

judges, said, in an interview: "Not much is expected to be done in that direction until about the middle of September, when the work of the judges and all those directly interested in this great undertaking will be pushed with vigor. I have not even looked at the revised list of names as yet, and am not prepared to make any comment one way or another upon the new names to be added to the original

The final vote is expected to be submitted by the committee of judges during the first week in October, in fact, by October 1, so hat the month of September must necessarily be a busy one for those chosen to make this initial belection.

It is not yet settled whether there shall be a meeting of all the judges, who represent every section of the country, but it is generally believed that such a meeting will be held before the final vote is taken.

The names thus far submitted to the judges are divided into 15 classes: Authors and editors, 23 names; business, men, 6; educators, 15; inventors, 16; missionaries and explorers, 21; philanthropists, 9; preachers and 'theologians, 26; scientists, 19; engineers and architects, 16: judges and lawyers, 11; musicians, painters and sculptors, 7; physicians and surgeons, 6; rulers and statesmen, 37; soldiers and sailors, 20, and distinguished men and women. outside the above classes, 3.

OLIVE CROP IN FRANCE.

Impression Prevailing in the Country That It Will Fall Short as It Did Last Year.

MAn impression prevails that the olive crop in France will be a disappointment this year, as it was last, writes Consul Skinner at Marseilles. "French farmers are disposed to abandon the cultivation of olive groves, as in recent years the prices obtained for the oil have not been satisfactory. It is true there was a sharp advance last year, due to a shortage in the erop; but the highest prices reached, about 36 cents per kilogram for best French oil, were low as compared with the old-time prices, which held firm at 50 cents. Because of this fact and the discovery that other articles can be grown with greater profit the acreage devoted to olives is annually becoming less in this region, and my attention has been called to the uprooting of 40,000 trees during the last six months in this department alone.

"Spain and Italy, with cheaper land and cheaper labor, and more particularly Tunis and Algeria, are offering a competition too severe for southern France. The French colonies last named are especially adapted to the successful prosecution of the business."

GREAT DISCOVERY BY TESLA. Simple Method Which Prevents Electricity Escaping from

the Wires. A patent has been granted to Nikola Tesia for an invention which, if his

claims are borne out, will prevent the escape of electricity from a wire. Tesla's invention, it is claimed, solves the insulation problem in a simple manner. He insulates the wire by passing

through it or near it, air kept at a low temperature, producing a coat of ice on the wire, which, the inventor finds by repeated and extensive experiments, cannot be broken through by the atrongest currents and at the same time gives an insulation that costs practically nothing.

By means of this latest discovery the loss of electricity or electrical energy in transmission, it is claimed, can be rendered so small as to be insignificant, and that power can be transmitted to great distances by means of underground wires.

Vanderbilts as Farmers. In the first directory of the city of New York, published over 100 years ago, the only Vanderbilta whose names appeared were not members of the old commodore's family ancestors. They were Dutch to be sure, and spelled their name "Van der bilt." The most prominent among them was a truckman. At that time the ancestors of the present millionaire family were prosperous farmers on Staten island and their names did not appear in a New

Germans Pushing Trade in Torkey. A sample room of German wares is plant to be opened in Constantinople.

York directory.

CASTELLANE IN STRAITS.

Chateau de Marais, His Magnificent Country Place, to Be Sold at Auction.

Financial disaster is fast overtaking Count Boni de Castellane. It is announced by staring placards in the village of St. Cheron, 30 miles from Paris, that the contents of the beautiful Chateau de Marias, the country home of the Castellanes, will be sold for the benefit of the count's creditors. The sale will include the furniture, horses. carriages and the valuable contents of the wine cellar. All Paris will be present when the auctioneer mounts his block.

The count has been forced on several occasions of late to take extreme measures to raise funds and has parted with many valued family relies. A magnificent wardrobe, costing \$250,000, was sold to M. Chaffeyon, a Parisian art dealer. Some of the art collections in the palace of the Bois de Boulogne were turned over to J. Pierpont Morgan for \$5,000,000. In spite of his securing this sum the count's yacht, the Walhalla, was recently attached by the builders for \$175,000. A clock upon which the count expects to realize \$60,000 has been offered for sale. The count has obtained several loans from bankers in Paris which have helped him a great

It is said that the countess, formerly Anna Gould, has tired of putting up money for her hueband and that her purse strings will not be ugain relaxed.

FLOUR MILL IN PARA.

Its Erection and Operation Will Be Keenly Felt by American Manufacturers of Flour,

"A movement is in progress, backed foreign capitalists-principally French-to erect a gigantic flour mill here," writes Consul Kennedy from Para. "The location is reported to have been selected, and the building will be completed not later than March 31, 1901. The erection of this mill will be felt keenly by American manufacturers of flour, who are marketing their surplus in the Amazon valley, though our exporters may still be able to supply the grain. More important still is the reported formation of a syndicate composed chiefly of Europeans for the purpose of erecting a flour mill, a sawmill and a sugar mill combined, the enterprise to be known as the Para and Amazon Valley Milling company.

'The entire outfit, I am informed. will be purchased in the United States and an experienced American will be employed to superintend the erection of the mill. Dr. Dulhona will doubtless be selected to visit the United States, with a view to completing arrangements."

STORK BUSY AT WASHINGTON.

Two Diplomatic Establishments Welcome Little Strangers and Two Others Expect Visits Soon.

Numerous additions, other than those ordained by European and Asiatic potentates, are being made to the diplomatic corps resident at the American capital. Two young strangers have made their appearance in the families of South American envoys and both are daughters.

Senora Dona Inez Germendia Infante. wife of Senora Don Eliodoro Infante. first secretary of the Chilian legation. received her tiny visitor the other day. and Senora Assis Brasil, wife of the Brazilian minister, welcomed hers Saturday.

The Chilian legation will, according to the whispers of friends, soon welcome another guest. The wife of the minister, Senora Vicuna, is the favored mortal of whom these things are told.

The stork is also hovering over the home of Senor Calvo, the Costa Rican

PRICELESS TABLETS.

minister.

University of Pennsylvania Expedition to Nippur Uncovers the Library of the Great Temple.

Mail advices to the London Daily News from Constantinople announce the arrival there of Prof. H. V. Hilvprecht, president of the University of Pennsylvania expedition to Nippur, after having discovered the library of the Great Temple, with over 17,000 tablets dealing with historical and literary matters, not one of them of later date than 2280 B. C.

"The unexplored remains of the library," says the correspondent, "will require five years for excavation.

"If those parts prove as rich in results as the portion already found, there will be no example in the world's history, not even in Egypt, of so complete a recovery of the records of ancient civilization."

NEW DIAMOND FIELD.

Gems from British Guiana Said to Excel the South African Product.

Diamonds, considered by London dealers superior to those from South Africa and valued at from 25 to 50 per cent, higher than those found in that region, have been discovered at the diggings up the Mazzaruni river in British Guiana, according to a letter to the state department from United States Consul Moulton at Demarara. Concessions of land for diamond mining are being made and the industry promises well, as the stones already found are pronounced fully equal in quality to Brazilian dia-

A Chadre to Win Fame, Presently some town that has never been able heretofore to get itself put on the map, says the Chicago Times-Herald, will become prominent by be-

FIRE CANNON AT CLOUDS.

French Try to Scatter Hail Storms, and Meet with Some Degree of Success.

"An effort is being made in this section of France to dissipate hailstorms by firing cannon at the clouds," writes Consul Covert at Lyons. "Fifty-two cannon, manned by 104 cannoneers and their chiefs, have been distributed over 2,500 acres of rich vine land. For the expense of the experiment the government appropriated \$386, the departmental council \$268, the National French Agricultural society and a number of wealthy vine growers added \$2,316 and furnished 14 more cannon. The minister of war supplied powder for 2% cents per pound. A high point in the vine land to be covered by the experiments was selected as the central post of observation and a signal code adopted. When a shot is heard from the central post all the cannon are fired, at first twice per minute, more slowly after the first

"I translate the report of the first firing at the storm clouds this season: "The farmers of Denice were aroused at 1:30 o'clock on the night of June 5-6. The storm was severe. The artillerists, from 40 to 50 strong, fired their guns and stopped the thunder and lightning. In the neighboring communes the people saw columns of flames rise 300 feet above the cannon when the shots were fired. At several places women recharged the cartridges.'

The wine growers are organizing to attack the hailstorms in many of the great wine growing regions of France. The two experiments thus far reported are pronounced successful. A writer in one of the wine growers' organs says: 'The results obtained from these experiments are such that organizations will be established at once in all the places that have heretofore been ravaged by hail."

WOMEN IN DUCK TROUSERS.

Many of Those on Yachts Adopt the White Bifurcated Garment.

With the advent of the shirt-waist men obliterating the barrier between the sexes have come the women who wear white duck trousers. Quite a number of them have made their appearance about Larchmont and New Rochelle recently. So far their presence is confined to private yachts. One woman who returned the other day from a cruise on the sound with her husband confessed that she had experimented with the new style, and was well pleased.

"Because a woman wears duck trousers." sam she, "is not to be taken as evidence that she is out for a lark. They are the wives of yachtsmen who are in the boats with them. The reason the yachting women take to the new style is because it is much cooler, and then our skirts are not dragging in the water in the bottom of the boats, as is often the case in cathoats and yawis. I am fond of sailing, and must say that I can move about more quickly in trousers than I can in skirts."

None of the women wearing duck trousers have been esen on the beach. It is quite likely that they will be frowned upon by Larchmont (N. Y.) society, which is growing very strict. An order was recently issued which regulates the length of the sleeves and legs in men's bathing suits. It is suspected that the white duck women go out on the yachts and make their changes there.

SPREAD GOSPEL BY TROLLEY.

Business Man of Kansas City Places Novel Cards on

There has appeared in Kansas City, Mo., in each of the 50 cars on the Westport electric line, which runs to the fashionable Hyde Park district, a large advertising card which. demands in four-inch letters to know "How many minutes a day do you give your God?" At the office of the company which controls street car advertising in Kansas City no one would give the name of the man who is carrying on his missionary work in so unique a manner.

"I will say this," said the manager, "that he is a well-known young business man of Kansas City, who insisted that his name be kept unknown. He is thoroughly religious. The cards are printed by him and he buys the space. He hopes to do some good through these cards, which, following a well-accepted principle of effective advertising, will be changed frequently."

Caring for Babies in France. It is not generally known that in France it is a penal offense to give any form of solid food to babies under a year old unless it be prescribed in writing by a properly qualified medical man. Nurses are also forbidden to use for their charges any sort of feeding bottle having a rubber tube. These and other equally stringent laws have recently been enacted by the French government, for in despair of increasing the birth rate of their country they are now doing their utmost to save the lives of the comparatively small number of babies who are born.

No Chance for Misunderstanding. According to the story of a painstaking correspondent, the streets of Peking "ran red with blood." There can be no reason, therefore, says the Chicago Tribune, for ill-informed persons supposing that streets ever run yellow with blood, even in China.

Terra Cotta Railway Sleepers. On one of the Japanese railways terra cotta sleepers are used. They are far more durable than those of wood.

A Company of the second of the

-REFORM IN GRAMMAR. -

French Cauncil of Public Instruction Orders Simplification of Synins and Orthography.

Americans in France-and those at home who have to learn French grammar-will welcome the announcement that a decree has just been issued by the council of public instruction, the ruling pedagogic body of the country, directing that hereafter French syntax and orthography are to be simplified. In a word, French grammar is to be rid of some difficulties that have never served any useful purpose but mental discipline.

To begin with, the chapter in the grammar dealing with the past participle of verbs conjugated with "avoir" is suppressed. Such participles are for the future to be invariable.

Another reform concerns nouns that were heretofore of two genders. From this time they may be spoken or written in either gender.

A more important innovation affects the plural of composite nouns, heretofore a cruel embarrassment to the young Frenchman, and an almost insurmountable barrier to the foreigner learning the language. The council of public instruction directs that the plural is to be formed by merely adding "s" at the end of the last word. For instance, one may now say "tetea-tetes" as the plural of "tete-a-tete." and "chef d'oeuvres" as the plural of "chef d'oeuvre."

The council condemns, examiners who, in France or in the United States, get a fiendish delight in presenting as questions to be answered grammatical problems whose petty peculiarities are far better ignored. It has come out boldly in favor of a simpler style and common sense in things grammatical.

GIVEN BETTER BERTHS.

Clerks in Census Office Rewarded for Expert Work in the Punching of Cards.

Five hundred clerks are to be made happy at the census office, that number having been selected for promotion in the division of population. Many of them are those who have enjoyed the benefits of the last promotion, and since they have become still more expert in the way of punching cards by which the census is counted. This branch of the work has increased rapidly under the methods adopted of raising the pay of the clerks in proportion to the number of cards punched.

Little speed was attained by-the purchers during the first few weeks on account of the inexperience of the operators, the excessive heat, and the effeet of the punching beares on the eyes. often as many as 22 purchers succumbing to the strain in a single cay.

As they become accustomed to their work their speed is wonderful, and the work is turned out far more rapidly than was expected. The minimum number of eards punched must be 666 a day, while the maximum is fixed at 960. The latter figure is often exceeded by the punchers, one woman making a daily' record of 1,300. Nearly all of the wo or 900 clerks in this division are women. and during the first hot days before the exhaust fans, electric fans, and other cooling appliances were put into the building never less than 20 girls a day were overcome.

NUN SEES WORLD.

After Forty-Five Years Spent in Cloister She Emerges to Restore Pailing Health.

After 45 years spent as a cloistered nun in the Ursuline convent at Bedford Park, in the Bronx, Cecilia Lawrence, known in the sisterhood as Mother Cecilia, passed for the first time since she entered beyond the convent walls and for the first time in her life rode on a railroad train. Permission to leave the convent for a brief period was obtained by a special dispensation from Archbishop Corrigan on account of Mother Cecilia's failing health, and she went to Babylon, L. I., where she will be nursed by the sisters of the convent of St.

Mother Cecilia is a daughter of Bryan Lawrence, who lived in New York, and at his death left \$100,000 to the Ursuline convent and a like sum to his daughter. She assumed the white veil when she was a girl graduate, 17 years old.

UNIQUE GIFT FOR CARNEGIE. Faculty of Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J., Make

Recognition of Generous Gifts.

The faculty of Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, N. J., has just sent to Andrew Carnegie a unique gift in appreciation of generous gifts to the institute. The gift is a-section of an original 36-pound T rail from the Camden & Amboy railroad, inclosed in a handsome casket. The cas-

ket also contains facsimiles of letters,

specifications and bills connected with

the history of the first T rails. The piece of T rail sent Mr. Carnegie was furnished by the president of the institute, Dr. Henry Morton, The rails for the Camden & Amboy track, between South Amboy and Boidentown, were rolled in 1831, President Morton says, and were the first T rails designed or made, although the Vignoles rails, produced in France several years later, have generally been credited with being the earliest.

Characteristically Topsy-Turvy. Labor in China varies in its efficiency according to the place, and, curiously ounlike Europe, seems to vary inversely with the temperatures of the climate, At Tientsin and the northern ports it takes much longer to load and unload cargo than at the ports of the Yangtse and the husbandly of the ciled wa less cure in the Lorthern provinces than

-FORGOT HIS WIFE.

Absent-Minded Business Man Leaves His Wife in a Restaurant and Goes Home Without Her.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kane of Clyde, N. Y., went to Rochester the other day to attend the Occ Fellows' convention. In the afternoon they entered a remtaurant, and Kane, seeing a friend pass by the door, stepped out to speak to him. Mrs. Kane waited for an hour and a half and then informed the police, fearing that harm had come to her husband.

The police searched for him all night and then Mrs. Kane went home, leaving the officers to continue the hunt. The first person Mrs. Kane saw when she reached home was her husband. Kane bad been absorbed for half an hour in business matters after he left the restaurant, and when he had finished he had remembered that he would just have time to catch the evening train home. He hurried to the depot and took the evening train. He was surprised to find the house closed and wondered where his wife could be. Then he remembered for the first time that he had left her to wait for him in a Rochester restaurant.

TO USE MEGAPHONES.

New York Firemen to Utilize Them in Fighting Fires in the Upper Floors of Tall Buildings.

When fighting fire in tall buildings hereafter the New York firemen will use large megaphones in transmitting orders from the street to the upper; floors of the burning structure, or vice versa. Great inconvenience has been experienced in the past in transmitting orders from or to the upper floors of skyscrapers. A test with the megaphone was made the other day in a drill-yard at fire beadquarters by Chief Inspector McAdams. The building is more than 125 feet high. Chief. McAdams spoke to the men on the roof in a moderate tone, yet every word was heard. The megaphone was equally successful in transmitting orders from the roof to the yard. "The department has ordered fifteen meyaphones, and they will be used in every exerrict in which there are tall buildings," said Chief Croker. "I believe they will be of material help to us. If not, we'll adopt a telephone outfit or some other device."

HUNTINGTON ART COLLECTION If Sold at Auction it is Thought It

Would Bring at Least #2,000,000.

The late C. P. Huntington's art collection if it were sold at auction would probably bring \$2,000,000. In the course of the last six years him commissioners have spent about \$230,-000, it is said, in buying the works of American artists. Within the last six months he bought an "old master" for \$60,000. In his collection are paintings by Meissonier, Millef, Troyon, Rosa Bonheur, Rosseau, Sir Fred-

erick in ghton and Landseer. One part of his conection is a series of pictures of Roman Catholic prelates, from popes to bishops, for which he paid 86,000 francs. His gallery contains also many of Gustave Bore's works. Fine tapestries were always sought by Mr. Huntington. One piece now in his home as a portiere was designed by Teniers and cost 60.000

The collection includes also miniatures and bric-a-brac.

GIRL AFFECTED BY STORMS.

Lightning Phock Leaves Young Woman with a Peculiar Malady.

A strange case has come before the Grant County " Medical society . at Marion, Ind. Miss Emma Steeleman was knocked unconscious by a bolt of lightning that struck her father's house about two weeks ago. She'recovered from the effect of the shock. but during a number of electric storms that have passed over Marlon since that time she has had a peculiar rensation.

As soon as a storm approaches Misa Steeleman is seized with a high fever and she thinks that she is burning up. As soon as the storm has passed she recovers from the fever, but is left in a critical condition.

It is not known whether she has a fever or it is an imagination brought on by tempotary insanity caused by fright. There is no indication of fever, but the girl declares she is on.

WANT CANAL BUILT.

Flenragua Willing, to Concede Anything to Secure the Great Interoceanic Waterway.

Gen. P. Alexander, who was appointed by President Cleveland arbitrator in the boundary dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, has just returned from those countries on the completion of his mission. An interesting feature of Gen. Alexander's work lay in the fact that his labors on the boundary questions were the cause of a close survey of the line of the proposed Nicaragua canal. He said that he did not mink the commission now preparing a report would advise a new route. While disclaiming definite knowledge on the subject, he was inclined to think that a proposition from the Nicaraguan government to ours had already been made. He believed that rather than not have the canal the Nicaragua government would accede to almost any terms. made by the United States.

Central African Railway. The Uganda milesoy already has a length of over 26) miles. The rolling stock includes uz incommittee and 942

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