

PEOPLE MARRY OLDER.

Some Interesting Matrimonial Facts Gleaned at a Missouri County Courthouse.

Age given in marriage licenses in the recorder's office show that men and women are marrying later in life than ten or twenty years ago.

The average of the first six couples applying for license at the recorder's office on a recent day was 33 1/2 for the men and 29 for the women.

Count Ito, late prime minister of Japan, is exceedingly proud of his pretty little wife.

COOK ISLANDS ANNEXED.

Great Britain Takes Formal Possession of Them at the Request of the Chiefs.

On October 3, last, the governor of New Zealand landed on the Cook Islands and formally annexed them to the British empire.

The islands, lying far southeast of Samoa, are off the usual lines of steamer traffic, and most of their trade is carried on with New Zealand and New South Wales.

All of them are coral islands, lifted only a little way above the sea level, except Rarotonga, the largest and most populous.

COMMON CACTUS.

One That Lived Seven Years Under a Sealed Glass Case in Berlin.

One of the commonest of cacti in gardens is the Echinopsis multiplex, a small subglobular species, with five or six sharp ribs, and sparsely sprinkled with a few clusters of long, black spines on the sharp edges of the ribs.

Miss Balfour, the sister of Arthur J. Balfour, government leader in the house of commons, is noted for her devotion to her brother's interests.

Occupations for Women. The seven occupations open to women in 1839 were teaching, needlework, keeping boards, factory working, typesetting, bookkeeping and domestic service.

NO HOLLERING IN BROOKLYN.

A Manhattan Lawyer's Experience with a Deaf Client Across the Big Bridge.

"One of my clients is deaf," said a downtown lawyer, according to the New York Sun, "and thereby hangs a story of my trouble with a policeman in Brooklyn.

"The cop on the beat came around the corner and said we must move along. Naturally I resisted this. I said I had the privilege of talking to my client in the street if I wanted to.

SAVED HER HUSBAND'S LIFE.

Countess Ito of Japan Proved Her Courage in a Time of Great Peril.

Count Ito, late prime minister of Japan, is exceedingly proud of his pretty little wife, and all he may be, for not only is she in every way charming, but to her he owes his life.

WEY MANY HEELS ARE LOST.

Modern Machine Pegging on Shoes Is Not at All Conducive to Long Wear.

"Have you noticed," asked the observant man, according to the New York Times, "how often one sees the portions of shoe heels scattered about at the elevated road stations and other places where a lift might easily be torn off?

A REAL BUSINESS WOMAN.

Miss Balfour Carefully Manages Her Busy Brother's Estate and Household.

Miss Balfour, the sister of Arthur J. Balfour, government leader in the house of commons, is noted for her devotion to her brother's interests.

UNFAIR TO BANGOR.

The Revenge of Maine Marketmen Who Were Prevented from Shipping Game.

Almost every town in Maine of 1,000 or more inhabitants has from one to ten markets where venison is retailed all through the open season.

The famine came about through a fit of temper of the marketmen, who are angry because the new law will not permit them to ship game and game birds out of the state.

Last year Fred Johnson, who is the Delmonico of Bangor, took out a license to sell venison to such of his customers as wanted deer meat on their tables at home.

TWENTY-FOUR O'CLOCK.

A Time-Keeping System That Is Strongly Urged by the Railroads.

According to a decree recently issued in Spain the hours will be there counted, after January 1, from one to twenty-four each day, beginning at midnight.

This change has long been urged in this country. Some years ago, when the railroads brought about the present system of "standard time," or, as it used to be called, "railroad time," they desired to inaugurate the 24-hour scheme, too.

If one had nothing to do but to travel by rail and study time-tables, the proposed change would be eminently desirable; but for 99 of every 100 acts and appointments outside of those connected with the railroads, there is no confusion arising from the present system.

BALLOON ASCENSIONS.

Sensations Experienced by Aviators at Various Heights—Dangerous Undertakings.

Two Frenchmen recently made an ascent in a balloon at Vincennes with a view to reaching the greatest altitude that could possibly be obtained.

Shortly afterward the latter was somewhat paralyzed and could only move with difficulty. But with the application of oxygen they were restored and they were but little inconvenienced.

A Furnace's Breathing. The furnace of an Atlantic liner will consume no less than 7,500,000 cubic feet of air an hour.

LONGEVITY OF VARIOUS RACES.

At Twenty the American's Expectation of Life is Longer Than Other Nationalities.

It has often been remarked that while nothing is so uncertain as the duration of any given human life, nothing is more certain than the aggregate of years which may be assigned to a group of 100 persons or more at any particular age.

The American's expectation of life at a given age, to use the actuarial phrase, differs considerably, as might be expected, in different countries, and Englishmen may be surprised to learn that they are not the longest lived among the white races.

The American who has reached 60 may look to complete 14 years more while the Britisher's expectation is only about 13 years and ten months, and the German's as nearly as possible 12 months less.

A JOCKEY'S SENSATIONS.

One of Them Tells How He Feels When Riding Down the Home Stretch.

"If you ride with your head down—that is to say, bent slightly, so that the wind does not beat right on to your face—you can breathe easily, but if you hold your mouth wide open and let the air beat right in your face, then you will have great difficulty in breathing, and if the race is a long one you will become exhausted by the end of the ride."

"A mile race on a good horse is run in about 1:40. A mile in 1:40 is at the rate of 36 miles an hour, so, you see, a race horse travels at top speed.

"It is no easy task to ride a horse in a race. The jockey must have all his wits about him. He does not have much time to think how he feels. When riding in a neck-and-neck race down the home stretch I forget everything except that I must strain every nerve to pass the other horses; no thought is then given to the plaudits from the grand stand."

HARD WINTER IS COMING.

Experienced Woodmen See Certain Indications of an Unusually Severe Season.

"All the signs in the woods," explained an experienced woodman to a Washington Star reporter, "point to a very severe winter, though it may be a short one. The squirrels have already begun laying away their winter store of nuts, though in the immediate country around Washington the nuts have not begun to fall to any great extent.

"Another sign is the crop of persimmons, which is also extra heavy. The few frosts that we have had have not done much to ripen the persimmon and many of them are yet green. My observation convinces me that these signs are entitled to some dependence, though, of course, they are not recognized as infallible by the authorities on the subject. I think I have satisfied my own mind on the bearing the persimmon has on the weather that it is to follow and that this is incontrovertible: If the persimmon ripens and falls early the winter will be brief, but if it holds on to the tree late into the fall the winter is very liable to be late in its wind-up and severe while it prevails.

Does of Burlap. An enormous and increasing amount of burlap is used in this country, 500,000,000 yards a year, it is said. Burlap is used for making bags, it figures in coat linings, and is even entering, in a dressed-up state, into wall coverings. But it is chiefly used for packing and wrapping, and with our increasing export trade great quantities of it are demanded.

Vegetables in Buenos Ayres. Vegetables are usually sold in piles in Buenos Ayres, so that the purchaser has to measure quantity as well as quality by the eye. The butchers in that city do not sell meat by weight, but at so much per chunk.

VERY OLD TABLETS.

New Light on the Earliest History of the World.

Remarkable Discoveries of Dr. Hilprecht at Nippur—Evidence of Civilization Earlier Than Supposed Time of Adam and Eve.

Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, who has been exploring the mountains of ancient Nippur, in Asia Minor, arrived in New York the other morning on the steamer Friedrich der Grosse from Bremen.

Dr. Hilprecht's coming has been awaited anxiously by students interested in the remote past, because his discoveries are believed to have reorganized the chronology of biblical times, extending it back many millenniums prior to the old time reckoning of the deluge. Therefore he is looked upon as a messenger bearing news of the earliest records of civilization.

Light on how people lived at Nippur at the time when Adam and Eve were supposed to be living in the Garden of Eden. Some of the tablets are dictionaries, architectural plans, building lists, grammatical exercises, contracts, bills of sale, histories and chronological lists, and not only do they form a complete record of the time, but they indicate that the civilization then existing was many thousands of years old.

"The chief point to be remarked," said the professor the other morning, "is that we have found the first Babylonian temple library that was ever discovered. Hitherto we have possessed nothing more than knowledge of the probable contents of such a library from copies found in the royal library of Ashurbanipal, in Nineveh, which was discovered 60 years ago."

PLAN YALE BI-CENTENNIAL.

College Will Hold Elaborate Celebration November 20 to 23.

President Hadley and the members of the Yale faculty announced the other night that the plans for the bicentennial celebration of Yale, on November 20, 21, 22 and 23 were about completed and that Yale is to have a celebration in which the graduates and undergraduates will take prominent parts.

The most important announcement in connection with the celebration is that by the finance committee. This committee has been occupied with collecting funds primarily for the purpose of erecting the new memorial buildings on Grove and College streets. The total amount of subscriptions up to October 26, 1900, is \$608,474.79.

ONE HORSE RESCUES ANOTHER. Flings in and Tows to Land Blind Animal Struggling in Water.

A blind horse was rescued from a watery grave the other day by another horse. The blind horse wandered into a mill pond at Mountain Grove, Va., and soon got beyond his depth, when he began swimming around in a circle, unable to land. His distress attracted a horse which belongs to Postmaster C. Z. Heron to the water's edge, and he tried by neighing to direct the blind horse to shore.

Lightning Rod Miles in Length. Bavaria has a most curious claim to notoriety, which is that it possesses the longest lightning conductor in the world. It rises some yards above the top of the meteorological station on the Zugspitze, the highest point in the German empire, and runs down the side of the mountain to the bottom of Hohenfall, where there is running water all the year round. The length of the rod is five and one-half kilometers—nearly three and a half miles.

Too Large a Bite. Manchuria being about 800 miles one way and 500 the other, it is no wonder the Russian bear denies having swallowed it at the first gulp. At least two bites at a cherry of that magnitude are to be looked for, says the New York Tribune, and perhaps several more. But there is little doubt that the robust animal will worry it all down sooner or later.

THE PERPLEXING LEONIDES.

Astronomers Prepare to Photograph Heavenly Display That May Not Appear.

Yale astronomers are preparing to photograph what Leonides appear in the heavens this fall. Last year at this time the most extensive preparations were made to photograph the meteoric display, but the cloudy skies and the fact that but few Leonides appeared threw the astronomers into a state of great perplexity.

"There is just as much reason to expect the Leonides at this time as last year. Astronomers have not yet been able to discover why it is that with the usual regularity with which the Leonides come every 33 years the shower last year failed to appear. There are two possible explanations of this. Since the last great shower in 1908 Jupiter has passed quite close to the portion of the orbit containing the meteors due in 1909, and has, according to calculations, so perturbed the path as to make them cross the line of the earth's orbit several hundred thousand miles inside the orbit—that is, nearer the sun—so that the earth may not have passed through the swarm. At the same time the stream will take but four or five hours in passing any way, and if it comes before the radiant is above the horizon it will not be seen at all.

The second possible explanation is that there was a death of meteors in that portion of the swarm encountered by the earth in 1909, and there is no reason to-day to think that they are evenly distributed. It is possible, however, to believe that the portion of the stream due at the intersection of the earth's orbit this year, has not yet been perturbed by Jupiter in the same way as last year."

TO CONDUCT A DAIRY FARM.

Former Well-Known Newspaper Woman Buys Herd of Jerseys.

Mrs. Antoinette Van Hoesen Wakeman, formerly a well-known newspaper woman in Chicago, has put a herd of grade Jersey and Jersey-Holstein cows on her farm, near Hastings, Minn., and made the first shipment of milk to the Crescent Creamery company of St. Paul.

Mrs. Wakeman believes that Hastings is admirably situated to become a point for the shipping of milk to the Twin Cities. She proposes to devote her place, which is less than a mile from the courthouse, exclusively to dairy products and fruit, and has built a barn, and proposes to have her herd and milk cared for on the three hundred-acre farm of Prof. T. L. Haeker, of the agricultural experiment station of the state university.

Although this is a somewhat unusual innovation for a woman in this part of the country, "personally conducted" farms are a profitable fact of eastern women. Mrs. Richard Watson Gilder, whose husband is the editor of the Century, has a farm of 250 acres, where she lives nine months out of every year, and makes most profitable. Abram Hewitt's daughters are also enthusiastic and successful scientific farmers, and many other well-known women are devoting themselves to similar agricultural undertakings.

SPIRITED COMPETITION.

New Firms Seek to Secure Contracts for the Building of Warships.

The monopoly of constructing warships of the largest type, hitherto enjoyed by three concerns in this country, promises to be invaded by four or five firms, which have expressed a great desire to make proposals for the construction of the vessels, bids for which will be opened on December 6. The three firms which have always bid upon this work are the Union Iron works, of San Francisco; the Cramp Building and Dry Dock company, of Philadelphia; and the Newport News (Va.) Shipbuilding company. It now appears that these firms will have as rivals the Fore River Shipbuilding company, of Weymouth, Mass.; Townsend & Downey, of New York; the New York Shipbuilding company, of New York city; the Trigg Engine and Shipbuilding company, of Richmond, Va.; and the Hilsdon iron works, of San Francisco. The appearance of the latter firm in the list of competitors is something of a surprise. It will make it interesting for no competitors in the race for naval contracts covering large ships on the Pacific coast.