

WOMEN BUY A HEARSE.

Las Cruces (N. M.) Club Decides That Town Should Have a Proper Funeral Vehicle.

Think of a woman's club buying a hearse with its first official dollars! That is the odd proceeding of the Women's Improvement association at Las Cruces, N. M., and as the president, Mrs. D. C. Hillings, puts it proudly: "It's the only hearse in the county."

This enterprising incident indicates the uphill work of clubwomen in the sparsely settled southwestern states, who long for some of the advantages and aesthetics of so-called civilization—an uphill work, it may be added, which is unknown to big and thrice-blessed clubs in thickly populated centers.

The Las Cruces Woman's Improvement association has only 11 members. When this ambitious little band organized five years ago, it not only purchased a hearse to replace the rude wagon that had previously served at the head of funeral processions, but set about otherwise to improve this small town, made up mostly of unprogressive Mexicans and winter tourists.

You clubwomen of the north have no idea how away-back-in-the-Bible-times these Mexicans," wrote Mrs. Hillings, according to the Pilgrim. "We women have worked slowly and at great disadvantage. Several times we have applied to outside clubs for help, but, receiving no answer, have decided we must wait and work."

At present these clubwomen are building a windmill to secure better irrigation—another unusual undertaking, indeed.

HE DOCTORED THE EGGS.

A Physician Played Sherlock Holmes and Caught a Dishonest Employee.

A Long Island doctor who has been missing eggs from his poultry yard for some time is happy at last, for he has discovered the thief. For months every effort and every device to detect the culprit failed, but, finally, the doctor hit upon a scheme that was worthy of Sherlock Holmes.

He took a dozen or more eggs and bored the tiniest of holes in the shell of each. Then through these holes he introduced into the eggs a piece of very fine wire. The holes were then filled with white wax and the eggs returned to the nest.

A few days afterward the doctor was called in to see the child of a woman in the village near him. After attending the child he talked about one thing and another until the lady told him of such a strange thing that had happened to her. A few days before she had bought a half dozen eggs from the village grocer, and in four of them she had found short pieces of wire.

These were produced and shown to the doctor, who took possession of them, and told the lady how they had come to be in the eggs. He then interviewed the grocer, who finally admitted that he had been buying eggs for some time from a man employed by the doctor. The man is now working elsewhere, says the New York Times, and the doctor no longer patronizes that particular grocer.

PONY LIVES ON COAL DIET.

A Pet Shetland in Chicago Develops an Appetite for Bituminous Fuel.

A Chicago butcher is greatly annoyed by the insatiable appetite his pet Shetland pony has shown of late for soft coal. One day lately the pony broke its halter strap, and, finding the barn door locked, squirmed through a hole in a partition between the barn and a coal shed, where it was found some time later, contentedly munching the fuel.

The owner was at a loss to account for the unusually large amount of coal his family had used this winter until he found the pony in the coal bin. The discovery also explained, he thought, why the pony had been "off its feed" of late, and why condition powders had failed to restore its appetite.

In his opinion, the pony had been in the habit of appeasing its hunger with soft coal for several weeks past. The animal has grown fat on its unusual diet.

A New National Park.

Katherine Louise Smith tells in Outlook the need—and the opportunity—for a new national park in north central Minnesota. There stands to-day a piece of ancient forested America (in fact, the only great northern pine forest between the Rocky mountains and the Atlantic ocean) which it is possible still to save from destruction. Within the limits of the Chippewa Indian reservation, along the Leech, Cass and Winnabogish lakes, there are, as of ready and waiting for this purpose, 611,592 acres of land and 214,270 acres of water surface. It is the land of the original Dakotas and Ojibwas—the cradle of northwestern story and tradition.

Considerate of the Thief.

The following advertisement recently appeared in a London paper: "Milk—if the individual who stole the milk off my doorstep this morning will be good enough to knock at the door on the occasion of his next professional visit I'll give him a drop of rum, to put him to bed. Milk taken neat on cold mornings and an empty stomach is likely to injure the internal economy of outdoor workers. Address, etc."

A MAKER OF SAINTS.

An Establishment in Paris That Has Been Producing the Figures for Over a Century.

The firm of Raff, in Paris, has been in existence for over a century, but it is only six years since M. Pacheu, with whom M. Lecaron is associated, took over the business, says Pearson's Magazine.

"This making of saints," he said, "was a business which, when I decided to engage in industry, appealed to me most strongly. It is an industry for a man who is fond of frequenting the public libraries, who takes his pleasure in poring over old books and documents, who delights in research. Thus I do not know of anything that gives me greater pleasure than when I am written to about some saint concerning whom the customer can give me few if any details. One has to hunt up the particulars, the period in which he lived, the costumes of that period, to find out what were his special attributes, what was his martyrdom, if martyrdom there was."

"Thus some time ago we received from a priest in the south of France an order for a statue of St. Fris. I had never heard of such a saint, nor does he figure in our catalogue, though that massive volume contains over 180 closely-printed pages of the names of saints. We applied to a priest who is a great authority on this subject, and we learned that St. Fris was a captain of barbarians under the Roman domination, and that he was martyred at the age of 20. This gave us the period, and the rest was easy."

"Again, on another occasion, we were asked to make a statue of a St. Ame, of whom we knew nothing but that she was a widow. We had to find out everything else about her. But once we know the period our task becomes easier. The period indicates the costume. Thus recently we had to make a St. Maurice. We knew that he was a captain, that he was a Roman, and we dressed him with the breast-plate and the helmet of a Roman captain."

THE TROJAN HORSE TO DATE.

Classical Method Employed by Two Clever Parisian Thieves in Their Business.

Even in these latter days an intelligent study of the ancient classics may prove a valuable asset to the conscientious student. That, at least, is what one gathers from the exploits of the pair of Parisian knights of the order of industry who stole a dummy horse from a saddler's shop, and proceeded to put it to the same use as the Greeks did the Wooden Horse of Troy, reports the London Graphic.

The deceptive quadruped was placed on a handcart and wheeled to a house where an innocent concierge consented to take care of it for the night. Before morning one of the confederates had emerged from the interior of the horse, laid hands on such valuables as he could find, and regained his hiding place—to be duly carted away by his friend.

This stratagem was actually successful several times—for good "M. Pipellet" had, no doubt, never heard a certain trite tag about gift-bearing Greeks, and the legitimate suspicion with which prudent Trojans should regard such. At last, however, a policeman happened to see the horse passing through the streets, and, having heard of its exploits, made bold to stop it—and the game was up. Even good Homer nods—and the students of the band were caught napping. Clearly, however, there is still money to be made out of a sound classical education.

CHINESE SANDWICHES.

They Are Not Composed of What Common Prejudice Might Lead One to Suppose.

Patrons of a certain restaurant in this city frequently call for a "Chinese sandwich," and the order is not delayed.

The prejudiced might suppose that a Chinese sandwich was made of—well, never mind, it isn't.

It doesn't seem quite clear why this particular sandwich should be tagged with a Mongolian label. In composition it is more Teutonic than oriental. In short, it consists of two generous slices of rye bread spread with finely chopped raw meat.

That there should be a demand for such a sandwich is not surprising. Germans have for a long time relished raw meat, even without the bread. Possibly the idea spread from Great Britain and the continent, where the hospitals have for years nourished certain patients with raw beef and raw mutton. The raw beef sandwich has also had a place in the regimen of New York hospitals for a long time. The medical men's theory is that raw meat is more nourishing and more easily digested, and is especially adapted to weak stomachs.

If the taste for raw meat becomes general it will be a curious response to the criticism of vegetarians, who have constantly declared that he who slays his brother, the ox, for food, would be a more conscientious savage if he devoured the carcass without cooking it.

An Odd Windfall.

It is said that a foreman stereotyper in a London printing works has had a curious windfall. Going to a sale of musical instruments, he purchased an old harpsichord for 20 shillings, because, having a hobby for fretwork, he fancied the wood of the front panel. When he got his purchase home he dissected it. He then discovered that the harpsichord had a double back, and presently between the boards he found very old Bank of England notes, the total face value of which amounted to \$150,000.

AN ARTIFICIAL PEARL.

Produced by Placing a Ball of Wax in the Shell of a Fresh Water Mussel.

A ball of beeswax introduced into the shell of a living fresh-water mussel has resulted in producing the most remarkable artificial pearl in existence. It is about an inch and a half in length, oval in form and pink in color, and is now the property of the Smithsonian Institution, reports a Washington exchange.

The ball of wax was placed near the hinge of the bivalve, which being in a tank of fresh water, was carefully watched. The irritation of the wax caused the mollusk to protect itself by coating the foreign object with a smooth coating of pearl stuff—the same material as that which is used in lining the inner surface of its shell. In the case in question the result was an enormous pearl. Owing to pressure, however, the wax ball lost its spherical shape and became oval in form.

At the end of two years the mussel was taken out of the tank and opened and the pearl removed. The wax afterward contracted owing to dryness, which caused the pearl shell to crack. This accident, while destroying the commercial value of the pearl, made it possible to observe the thickness of the nacreous covering, which is somewhat greater than that of an ordinary sheet of letter paper. If the pearl were not flawed it would be worth an enormous sum of money, but, even as it is it is priceless as a curiosity.

WHY WE RESEMBLE ROOKS.

Some Points of Similarity Between Human Beings and Feathered Bipeds.

He was standing in the rear end of a car, where all are friends in the common misery of having their toes trod on or hats crushed in, says the New York Press.

"I'm from England," he said, addressing nobody in particular and apropos of nothing, "and I want to tell you people that we all are only a lot of rooks. Say, did you ever watch a colony of rooks build their nests in the spring?"

Everybody looked reflectively away. "Well, I'll tell you. First a rook picks up a stick and puts it in his nest, then goes away after another one. When he's gone another rook flies to his nest and steals the stick. When he gets back he puts down the second stick, for still another rook to steal, and starts out after the first stick. He doesn't find it, and when he gets back to his nest he finds the second stick gone, and he starts after that, scolding and swearing in rook fashion."

"By this time the other thieves have been robbed, too, and it only takes about three sticks to go around the community and get the whole blamed community pow-wow-ing. Say, ain't that human nature?"

NOVEL CURE FOR SNAKE-BITE.

Mosquitoes Save a Man's Life by Drawing Out the Poison of a Rattler.

"Talkin' about rattlesnakes," said an Erie railroad brakeman, according to the New York Sun, "did you ever hear how the mosquitoes saved a man's life up near Gulf Summit, in Pennsylvania, last summer?"

"Well, while getting out railroad ties over back of Summit, Abe Morehouse was bitten in the leg by a rattlesnake. A doctor was at once sent for and the leg was bandaged tightly above the wound. It was expected that Morehouse would die before the doctor could come up there on his wheel, but he didn't. Just as soon as the leg was bared to put on the bandage, it was attacked by a swarm of mosquitoes, and when the doctor arrived he found the man as well as ever and lively as a cricket, but the ground was covered with dead and dying mosquitoes. They had sucked the poison from Morehouse's wound and saved his life. This was hard on the mosquitoes, but I presume Morehouse's life was worth saving."

COCONUT PALM IS HANDSOME

Its Long, Graceful Leaves Lead a Striking Beauty to the Southern Tree.

The coconut is one of the handsomest palms by its long, graceful leaves. It grows luxuriantly as far north as Palm Beach, Fla., and a few specimens may be seen a little above that point. Used to line walks, they present a picturesque scene, the low branches curving gracefully overhead. The nuts and their development are very interesting to observe. As a long time is occupied in the growth of the nuts, they may be seen on the same tree in many stages, from small, acorn-like ones to the immense brown-husked fellows, all in large bunches. The flowers, too, for a new crop, may be included in the collection.

It is a matter for concern, says Meekhan Monthly, that there appears to be little or no attempt to propagate coconuts in Florida, even though they be for ornamental purposes only. They are far from being so plentiful as they were 15 years ago.

Queer Norwegian Relic.

A citizen of Stillwater, Wis., is the possessor of an extraordinarily rare relic from Norway—a verdict rendered by a jury of 12 in June, 1553, at Oslo Courthouse, where Christiania now stands. At the bottom of this novel verdict hang 12 strips of sheepskin, with 12 pieces of beeswax the size of a small watch, which contains upon each the seal of one of the jurors.

WAVES IN THE AIR.

Are Like Water Waves That Stir the Whole Mass from the Surface to the Bottom.

Helmholtz showed that when a current of air warmer, and therefore lighter, was flowing above another current colder and denser the circumstances were the same as when the wind is blowing on a level surface of liquid. In both cases regular waves are produced in the denser medium, and the waves have their crests perpendicular to the direction of the upper current, says a scientific exchange. A wind that will produce water waves one meter long will, in air currents differing ten degrees C. in temperature, produce waves from two to five kilometers in length. To water waves from five to ten meters long correspond air waves having a length of 15 to 20 kilometers. Such waves, whose height above the surface of the earth is not often greater than their length, are like water waves that stir the whole mass of water, from the surface to the bottom. They are very frequent, but are not visible unless the lower layers of air are saturated with moisture so that mists are formed. In such a case parallel bands of clouds are produced, extending over a large portion of the sky. In a balloon ascension Herr Emden, of Munich, was able to recognize such waves and to make such measures as to show that the mathematical theory of their formation was completely verified.

A SPIDER'S WOOLING.

The Male is Always in Danger of Being Devoured by the Object of His Attentions.

Scarcely, however, had Araneina returned to continue her feast upon the fly than still another summons came over the telegraph system from the outer edge of the web—a signal different from any of the previous ones, seemingly of a timorous nature. Araneina knew at once that it was from a gentleman spider come courting, who did not dare to venture too close until he was sure of the mood his lady love was in, says Pearson's Magazine.

It very often happens that a male spider who is precipitate in thrusting his attentions upon one of the other sex lives just long enough to regret it, for, should the lady chance to make her next meal upon an adventurous wooer, Araneina's courtier evidently did not consider the occasion propitious for love making, for, when at his third or fourth diffident signal she angrily darted towards him, he dropped to the ground and disappeared.

Araneina now ate the remainder of the contents of the fly. Then, further trussing up the beetle in his larder for the next day's breakfast, she retired into the cleft of the limb above her web for the night.

DORMANT MONEY.

Many Thousands of Dollars Awaiting Lawful Ownership in the English Courts.

A great deal of money becomes dormant through the carelessness or forgetfulness of the owners. When Mr. Goschen's conversion and redemption scheme of 1887 came into operation the Bank of England notified 6,000 holders of consols that their 3 per cents were no longer 3 per cents. No fewer than 11,500 letters failed to reach the stockholders to whom they were addressed; the people were dead and their relatives were unknown, says Chambers' Journal. One person who could not be found held consols amounting to upward of £187,593; and over 40 possessed £10,000 each; and this money awaits lawful ownership. A very singular case of a stockholder's forgetfulness led to a suit in chancery some years ago. A lady who had attained the venerable age of 98 died at Marseilles. For years she had practically lived on money borrowed from her relatives under the impression that she possessed no means of her own. Only after she had died it transpired that a sum of £56,000 was standing in her name in the funds, and also £20,000 of accumulated dividends.

THE STUDY OF FIGURES.

Statistical Literature Not Much in Demand Among the Generality of Readers.

It is fairly obvious that the study of statistics is not exactly what would be termed a popular pastime. Librarians do not discover any extensive demand for statistical literature. Sir John Lubbock, if I remember rightly, found no place for a single volume of figures in his hundred best books, and in that flood of articles on "Books That Have Helped Me" by authors great and authors small, the same significant silence seems to be maintained. There were some very curious books that have apparently proved helpful to certain persons, but there was unbroken testimony of a negative kind that nobody had ever been helped by a blue book, says W. M. Daniels, in Atlantic. To say of anything: "As dry as statistics," is at once to consign it to the nethermost limbo of aridity. Such is the verdict upon the finished statistical product. As for the methods employed in constructing such tables—weighted averages, index numbers, or curves of error—these, to the wary faring man, are hidden and ingenious refinements of cruelty, to be avoided at all hazards, or at least forgotten with a shudder and a prayer.

Sugar for Horses.

To increase their powers of endurance two ounces of sugar are now included in the daily food of army horses in Argentina.

HERE'S A QUEER THING.

The "Morning Hour" in the Senate Begins at Noon and Lasts About Two Hours.

The "morning hour" is one of the queer things of the United States senate. In the first place the "morning hour" is two hours long, though it may be completed in ten or 15 minutes. In the second place, says the Washington Star, it never occurs in the morning, but begins at 12 o'clock noon, except on the rare occasions when the senate meets at 10 or 11 o'clock. Senator Hour, of Massachusetts, is responsible for the elongation of the morning hour so as to make it cover 120 minutes. Prior to 14 years ago the "morning hour," while existing in the afternoon, was but an hour in length, but a resolution submitted by Mr. Hour was adopted August 30, 1888, and that provided that the "morning hour" should be two hours in length or that it should end at two o'clock. This resolution provided "that after today, unless otherwise ordered, the morning hour shall terminate at the expiration of two hours after the meeting of the senate." The morning hour is devoted to the presentation of petitions, the introduction of bills, reports of committees, etc., and is the time when all sorts of little matters of that kind are attended to. At two o'clock the presiding officer lays before the senate the bill on the calendar, which is set aside as having precedence over other measures, and that is generally the time for long speeches of all kinds unless unanimous consent is secured to consider pension bills for a specified time or unobjectionable bills on the calendar.

MONKEY MASCOT IN 'WAR.

A Simian Veteran of Philippine Strife Who Was in Many Engagements.

Fritz, the mascot of company H, Twenty-third regulars, and veteran of the Philippine war, is known to the boys of the company as "comrade," and to them he is away above the average of his kind.

Fritz enjoys the rare distinction of being the only one of 12 monkeys able to stand the long ocean voyage from Manila. Frank J. Knoffkey is his owner, and the soldier has never gone into an engagement since April 14, 1900, when Fritz was brought into camp, without the faithful monkey either on his shoulders or trudging along close by his side. Fritz has been on every island in the Sulu archipelago and suffered without a murmur the long and trying campaigns.

When Knoffkey lay wounded on the field in Cebu island his comrades in uniform pressed on, but his comrade Fritz nestled close to his side and guarded him through the watches of the night.

On the regiment's forced march across Lacey Island, Fritz divided his time between walking and riding on the shoulders of the men along the line. It was on this occasion, says the New York Mail and Express, that he came near losing his life at the hands of several wild monkeys because he had no tail. A monkey loses his social standing in the Philippines when he is minus a tail. Fritz escaped from his indignant relatives only by leaping to the shoulders of his master.

AMERICA'S JEWEL MADNESS.

Prevailing Rake for Precious Stones Surpasses Anything Ever Before Seen in This Country.

The world has never seen, and in no other part of the world is there now to be seen, anything like America's jewel madness as shown by the conditions of to-day, when more than 500 New York establishments are engaged solely in the importation of precious stones, when agents of American dealers are searching Europe for the white gem and hopelessly endeavoring to supply American appeals for rubies and emeralds, and when 6,000 men in South Africa are toiling to obtain diamonds, more than half of which are to add to the beauty and happiness of the American woman. It is she that has caused the United States to become the greatest diamond market in the world, says Ainslie's Magazine.

For her we have imported in a single year \$20,000,000 worth of precious stones; for her, at one period, we smuggled them in at the rate of \$7,000,000 a year; for her we annually buy something like \$12,000,000 worth of diamonds, and thus, for her sake, heartlessly leave of the world's output of diamonds only some \$8,000,000 worth to satisfy the vanity of all the rest of the women on earth. For her adornment we annually cause to be brought to this country diamonds weighing in the aggregate 1,200 pounds, a weight three times that of the total output of the famous Kimberley field, and practically the equal of that of the whole of South Africa, the world's greatest diamond mine.

Killing of Seals.

The increased value of seal-skins in 1900 induced the lessees of the Pribilof Islands, the breeding grounds of the seal herds, to kill 13,000 two-year-old seals, whereas the rule has been not to kill any seal which has not reached the age of at least three years. If the killing of two-year-olds is allowed to continue it is certain that the seal herd will soon be exterminated.

Fattened Oysters.

Half-developed oysters and bivalves which are in poor flesh, as a stockman would say, are now kept in regular pens and fattened for the market, as if they were pigs or other live stock.

How Cows Lie Down.

A western cattleman says that all cows lie down on their left side and never on their right unless the left is injured.

CUBANS ARE HARD WORKERS.

Fecundities of the People as Reported by the New President of the Island.

We have an island materially rich, with a fertile soil and salubrious climate. The people are industrious especially those in the country districts, all that they ask is to have plenty of work at reasonable compensation. They are fond of home, and by nature are law-abiding. They love liberty and are brave, but reluctant when stirred by oppression, says Thomas Estrada Palma, in Success. The Cubans are anxious for their children to be educated. One of the reasons assigned in the Declaration of the Ten Years' War was that Spain treated us so murderously in order to pay the standing army that oppressed us, and would not furnish schools sufficient to educate our children. The Cuban people are singularly hospitable. A stranger, visiting a home, is not only treated with kindness, but is offered a cup of coffee as an evidence of good will. They have what is called the southern type of hospitality. Though our people are hard workers, they are not, as a rule, as provident as people of industrial habits ought to be. They have a free and easy way, spending their money on the present rather than saving for a rainy day. They are just and honest in their dealings and have faith in God.

TALKING AT SEA.

Two Ocean Liners Crossing in Opposite Directions Use the Wireless Method.

The marvels of wireless telegraphy are great enough to render a recent use of the system not sufficiently wonderful to be extraordinary, perhaps, yet the incident reported by Chambers' Journal is one which appeals to the imagination.

Two Cunard liners, the Lucentia and the Campania, were crossing the Atlantic in opposite directions. Each, knowing the date of the other's sailing, could make a calculation as to the hour when they would most likely meet. When the hour came the vessels were too far apart to sight each other. Presently, however, the warning bell of the wireless telegraphic apparatus in the Campania tickled, and the message was spelled out: "Are you there?—Lucentia." And then the two vessels, still invisible to each other, and, as it was found, 36 miles apart, talked for some hours, exchanging experiences as to the weather, and finally parting with the word "good-by" when they were 140 miles asunder.

Such a conversation carried on between vessels in the open ocean, separated by such a vast stretch of water and out of sight of each other, is an impressive illustration of what wireless telegraphy means.

KILLING OF THE CHINCILLA.

Fur Dealers in This Country Are Deeply Interested in Its Danger of Extirpation.

Fur dealers are much interested in the news from Chili that the chinchilla has almost been exterminated by fur hunters and that stringent measures will have to be applied to prevent the extinction of the animal there. In spite of laws for its protection in Bolivia, the chinchilla has almost entirely disappeared from that republic, and furriers fear that it may disappear in Chili as well, reports the New York Sun.

According to customs reports the number of the animals killed in Chili has increased greatly in recent years. The number of chinchilla pelts exported in 1900 was 625,000, more than double the exports of 1905.

A scientific society in Chili has already drafted a law forbidding the hunting of the chinchilla for four or five years in certain regions, and allowing hunting elsewhere for only half the year. It also forbids the use of firearms, dogs, fire and, in fact, everything except traps.

The fur dealers expect that the law will be enacted and predict that the price of chinchilla fur will soon be very much higher.

FIRST WAR IN HISTORY.

Inscriptions Lately Unearthed Reveal the Fact That Egypt Once Invaded France.

That Egypt and France held intercourse as early as 4000 B. C. is proved by the marked resemblance of inscriptions found in the two countries, says the Philadelphia North American. The excavations of Prof. Flinders Petrie have brought to light evidence of an extremely ancient movement between the land of the Pharaohs and the countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

This communication, like all other great invasions of history, had its origin in an effort at trade extension. The great wars of the eighteenth Egyptian dynasty were provoked by surrounding nations jealous of Egypt's growing wealth and power. In retaliation Egypt carried the campaign into Asia and Europe, and, judging from the inscriptions mentioned, must have pushed as far west as France.

Prof. Petrie has in his possession a series of figures found in Malta and neolithic remains from Brassempouy in France which are beyond chance of doubt the work of Egyptians. They establish intercourse long before the period which is generally recognized as the beginning of the history of the countries of Europe.

Breach of Promise in Japan.

One feature of western civilization has just made its first appearance in Japan, where a native woman has brought suit for a breach of promise, hitherto an unknown procedure in the land of the chrysanthemum.