

THEIR TONGUES BETRAY THEM

Character Reading by a New Method is Now a Popular Notion in Paris. And still they come. Linguistics is the latest craze in Paris. If one prefers to call it glossomancy, well and good. Under either name it means tongue reading and it threatens to compete with palmistry, says the New York Sun.

PECULIARITIES OF WRITERS.

Many of Them Cannot Do Good Work Unless Their Fads Are Humored. "I have often smiled," said the editor, "at the peculiarities displayed by the different people while writing their stories. Every one has his or her particular idiosyncrasy. Brown cannot write a decent line unless he chews at the end of an unlighted cigar, Jones is unhappy and restive unless he puffs at a Turkish cigarette, while Robinson must always have his pet briber pipe. One man I know is very 'dopy' unless he has had his drink. If he gets that inside of him he can write like a master of prose.

TOWNS MADE BY RAILWAYS.

The Iron Horse Has Been a Prominent Factor in the Creation of Provinces. To-day towns do not grow merely because of their location, and this factor of location will become less and less important as the years go by. Chicago is situated upon the most impossible and unlovely of all places of human habitation. She is simply a city of transportation, and is no better than her rails and boats, though by her rails and boats she lives in every western state and territory, says the Century Magazine.

AGE OF COINS TOLD BY RING.

Cashier Has Familiarized Himself with the Sound to Perfection. The cashier in the light lunch cafe jingled a silver half-dollar on the marble counter. "I'll bet you a cup of coffee I can tell you the decade in which that piece of money was coined," he said to a customer who was engaged with his midnight lunch.

Monster Granite Pillars.

A monster pillar of granite—the largest solid piece of stone ever quarried for building purposes—has just been swung into its place 60 feet above the ground on the half-completed Hall of Records, at Chambers and Center streets, New York city. It is more than 36 feet long, four feet wide and two feet thick, and required nearly three months to quarry. Thirty-one other stone pillars to be put in the building will be even larger. Each of the stones will cost \$5,000.

THE UNRELIABLE AIRSHIP.

It Has Many Faults That Limit It for General Utility Among Everyday People. It is very doubtful whether the airship will ever become a popular means of travel with the masses, for the simple reason that the enjoyment of fitting through the atmosphere is somewhat marred by the realization that the passenger does not know whether he will reach the earth alive or merely as a grease spot, says the Ohio State Journal.

HORSE THAT LAWTON RODE.

Equestrian Veteran That Was Placed on the Retired List After the General's Death. When the news of Gen. Lawton's death reached Vigan, a large town on the west coast of Luzon, the boys of the Third cavalry stationed there felt more deeply about it than the infantry companies of the garrison, for they had served under him, and they found a way to show it, reports the New York Tribune.

SAYS CABLES ARE SAFE.

Hiram Maxim Declares These Interests Need Not Fear the Invention of Marconi. Hiram Maxim thinks the Marconi system will be a dangerous competitor of the cable companies for transatlantic business. He argues chiefly on the difficulty of securing secrecy, or even certainty, saying: "An enemy in time of war might set up a wave-making apparatus of every great power giving off waves of all amplitude and making it absolutely impossible to work any system of wireless telegraphy.

A FUNNY LANGUAGE.

Some Samoan Sayings That Portray Some Characteristics of an Interesting People. Lovers of the writings of Robert Louis Stevenson will be interested to see an article on the Samoa of his day by his stepdaughter, Mrs. Strong, in the Century, from which we take this odd bit: "The native dictionary is interesting in the light it casts upon the Samoan character. I find an impossibility, such as an old man getting a young wife."

Hearing Suicide by Phone.

A cheerful telephone story is reported from Vienna. A young woman of Magyar-Czernia, in Hungary, was called up on the long-distance telephone by her sweetheart in the town of Taba. He said: "Would you like to hear how I shot myself?" Then she heard the sound of a shot. It was found afterward that the man had really killed himself.

ANIMALS WITH THREE EYES.

New Zealand Creatures That Have a Third Optical Organ on Top of the Head. Nearly everyone has heard of the tuatara, the curious, iguana-like looking creature, now found on only one or two islands off the coast of New Zealand, and supposed to be the oldest living type of animal on the face of the globe. One of the most curious features is an organ on the head, which at one time was spoken of as the pineal gland, but which Dr. Dendy discovered to be in reality a third eye, says the Melbourne Argus.

CLIFF-DWELLERS' TOWER.

Interesting Remnant of the Strange People That Was Built on a Mountain Point. Nothing in this country so fascinates the explorer and archaeologist as the ruins of the cliff dwellers in New Mexico. Many of these remarkable ruins are situated in the vast Murocan canyon, within a day's ride of Durango, Col., on the Rio Grande Southern railway, says the New York Herald.

SCIENCE BEATS NATURE.

Implement of a Present-Day Laboratory Make the Human Organs Seem Gross. The eye and the ear have long been regarded as marvels of mechanism, quite the most wonderful thing in the world. But compared with the implements of a present-day laboratory, the sensitiveness of all human organs seems gross enough, says Harper's Magazine. A photographic plate, coupled with a telescope, will reveal the presence of millions of stars whose light does not affect the retina in the least.

ROYAL PURPLE IS CRIMSON.

Color Popularly Known in the United States as Purple Is Vastly Different. "Any standard German dictionary will attest to the fact that the crude conventional color which is popularly known in the United States as purple has never been and is not today the royal purple in which classic tradition and the paintings of old masters robe their kings and queens, says the Chicago Daily News. Take Muret-Sanders, for instance, a standard German dictionary, and you will find under the word 'purpur,' which is the German spelling for our purple, the definition: 'The Tyrian dye; crimson; deep red.' Among the explanatory phrases attached to the definition also is one which, translated into English, means 'investing the cardinal with the purple.' The color of a cardinal's robes and hat is too well known, one would say, to permit one to think of them as anything but the color which is known popularly today as 'cardinal.'

Arab Swallowed His Fortune.

The Petit Parisien gives an account of a remarkable operation performed on an Arab. The unfortunate son of the desert, frightened at the approach of evil-eyed strangers, swallowed his fortune of 107 francs, consisting of five-franc and two-franc pieces. As it would have endangered his life to leave this money in his novel security vault, he was operated upon, and after much search 105 francs 50 centimes were recovered. The patient was 63 years of age.

NOT SO ABSENT-MINDED.

British Soldiers in South Africa Saved \$2,000,000 for the Folks at Home. The post office is throwing some side lights upon the character of the British soldier which will be read with interest. It appears that Tommy is not such an absent-minded beggar as he is made out to be. Tommy himself has always resented the souvenir, and the fact that he has sent a million of money home from the Cape in postal orders during the past year is a colossal testimony to his thrift and thoughtfulness of home needs, says the London Express.

ENGAGED GIRLS BARRED.

London Doctors Say They Should Not Be Allowed to Serve as Trained Nurses. "No engaged girls need apply" is the latest phrase of the nursing profession. Doctors and matrons have, it appears, been discussing the subject, and have come to the conclusion that damsels who are engaged to be married should not be admitted as probationers to training schools because, in the opinion of those staid, matter-of-fact persons, they only dally with nursing until the time comes to trip lightly into marriage, and thus stand in the way of those who intend to devote themselves wholeheartedly to their profession, says the London Telegraph.

LARGEST IN THE WORLD.

The New Government Printing Office at Washington Will Exceed All Others. If the shade of Herr Gutenberg could come back to earth when the new government printing office is completed and roam through that establishment he would note a few changes in the art of which he is the father. The largest printing shop in the world will be established under the new roof of the mammoth building now nearing completion on North Capitol street, reports the Washington Star.

PASSING OF CORK-STOPPERS.

After Centuries of Use They Are Giving Way to Bottle-Closing Devices of Many Kinds. The man who made the discovery many long years ago that a little tapered cylinder of cork was the very best bottle stopper has only been exceeded as a practical genius by those who, within the past century, have set themselves to work to improve upon and undo this early invention, and to get upon the market anything else than a "cork." On both hands there have been successes, the cork people having by improved machinery reduced their price so that there is still today nothing cheaper for the clogging of a bottle; the patent stopper men for their part, having shut off the avenue for the use of corks, coming to absolutely control certain lines of trade.

THE LOTTERY IN ITALY.

An Institution Under Control of the Government That Works Injury to the People. One of the curses of modern Italy is the lottery. An English traveler, according to the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post, thus describes the hold that this institution has on the people: "Saturday in all the principal towns of Italy is a lottery-day. The lotteries are instituted by the government, which draws a considerable revenue from them. All Italians without exception, take part in them, and their greatest anxiety is to choose a lucky number. In southern Italy the lottery has practically become a necessity. People talk of it all the week, consult monks, priests and certain individuals who have the reputation of being able to forecast the winning numbers. In Naples if a man has no money for a ticket he will even sell his bed to get one. Not content with all kinds of other expeditions, Neapolitan women of a certain rank on the eve of the lottery go in crowds to the cemetery. There the spectacle is most weird. Disheveled women through the avenues of the cemetery, calling on the dead to tell them lucky numbers. They light candles and place other offerings on the tombs of those whom they think could bring them good luck."

Thoughtful Absconder.

A banking and municipal treasurer in an Italian town disappeared, leaving a deficit of \$100,000. The authorities proceeded to open his strong box, which was found to contain a piece of paper inclosing 36 cents and stating that the money was for the locksmith who should be deputed to break open the safe.

Explosion of Acetylene Gas.

Acetylene gas, as shown by the Berlin experiments, will invariably explode if a detonator is in actual contact with it, but not otherwise.

New Trees in Scotland.

The British government is about to appoint a committee to arrange for replanting the woodlands in Scotland.

ONLY ONE PRIVATE TRAIN.

England's Sole Possession of This Kind is the Property of the Duke of Sutherland. The only English private train is that owned by the duke of Sutherland. It was specially built at the Wolverton works of the London and North-western railway, to his grace's order. It contains, stowed within the smallest possible compass, a large saloon for dining, a private sitting-room, sleeping berths, luggage compartments, kitchen, pantry and lavatories, the whole connected by a series of hand-comely decorated vestibules and corridors, says the New York Herald.

Stranger Arctic Find.

Petrified tropical fruits have been found in coal from Spitzbergen, the island group in the arctic ocean, midway between Greenland and Nova Zembla.