

EXECUTION OF AN ELEPHANT.

Executed the Man-Killer, Put Out of the Way with Cyanide of Potassium and Powerful Electric Shock.

Topsy, the "original baby elephant," who was brought to this country by Adam Forepaugh 28 years ago, and was exhibited by him all over the country, was executed by electricity at Luna Park, Coney Island, the other day, 6,000 volts being passed through her body for a period of ten seconds.

The employees put a temporary board flooring on the ground under her, and electricians extended the wires. When it came to attaching the electrodes to Topsy's feet there was more trouble and delay. One was attached to the right forefoot without much trouble, and the other had been wired to her left hindfoot, when she took it into her head that she didn't like the feeling. She kicked off the one on the front foot, and when that was wired on again she repeated the operation with her hind foot.

When all was ready Manager Murray held out a carrot to Topsy. She ate it, and another and another, and even twisted her trunk playfully as she took them. In each carrot there was a heavy dose of cyanide of potassium, and in all the elephant ate 450 grains, the show people said. As soon as she swallowed the last one, and before the poison had time to act, somebody shouted to have the current turned on.

Suddenly a flash and a small flame sprang from the electrodes. Topsy was just curling her trunk when the current hit her. The trunk straightened out suddenly and stiffened out, pointing straight to the ground. Her body strained forward as if she was trying to move, but she made no sound; her body was not convulsed, and to all appearances there was no pain. She fell on her side motionless. She was dead.

Topsy developed a bad temper two years ago and killed two keepers in Texas. Last spring in Brooklyn she killed another man.

SHOULD KISS AT HOME.

Custom of Greeting Brides in Church Has the Disapproval of a St. Louis Pastor.

In the opinion of Rev. Father Henry C. Bronsgeest, S. J., pastor of St. Xavier's Catholic church, St. Louis, there is entirely too much kissing of brides and other effusiveness at church weddings. Before an audience which filled the finest and most fashionable Catholic church in the city, Father Bronsgeest uttered his denunciation. A dozen or more brides of the last season, including several who are members of families highly prominent socially, were in the audience.

"There is too much hand-shaking and kissing of brides," said the reverend father. "After the ceremony at the church, the proper place for this, if it must be indulged in, is at home. The church was not built for that purpose."

Father Bronsgeest also took occasion to criticize the custom of brides entering the church with uncovered heads, declaring that it is expressly forbidden in the first epistle of St. Paul.

NEW TEST OF STRENGTH.

An Instructor of Harvard University to Substitute Other Qualities for Brute Force.

Dr. Dudley A. Sargent, physical director of Harvard university, will introduce within a few days a new strength test system which in conception and practice promises to revolutionize the whole trend of athletics. The main principle of his new science is to substitute quickness and endurance for mere brute force.

For many years physical directors have realized that too much attention has been paid to the development of mere brawn and muscle to the neglect of those finer qualities which distinguish the real athlete from possessors of mere animal strength. Until Dr. Sargent has put his new science into use at the reopening of Harvard he will not make public the detail of his plans.

TO PUBLISH HER MEMOIRS.

Sarah Bernhardt's Labors Four Years on Story of Her Life and Work Will Occupy Three Volumes.

Mme. Bernhardt announces that she has been writing her memoirs of the last four years, and that they will be published in English, German, Italian and French. She says she has received offers from reviews and magazines, but will not close with them. The memoirs will be in three volumes, illustrated, and will contain her experiences of real theatrical life. The actress works on her book in the country, and had valuable help from newspapers, some of whose stories she is setting right.

To Check Loss of Population. The latest proposal for falling off of population in France comes from Col. Tautouze of the general staff. He proposes that children and grandchildren shall have equal succession rights, so that a man with many children will receive a larger share than his brother, who may have none or few. An only child would be allowed to receive only one-half of his father's estate, the other half going to the next heirs.

Writing Versus Financing. Bret Harte left an estate valued at \$1,500—almost as much as a captain of industry can earn in 20 minutes, says the Chicago Record-Herald, when conditions are ordinarily favorable.

MILLIONS INCREASE.

Wages Throughout the United States Show a Big Aggregate Advance.

Great Railroad and Industrial Incorporations Will Pay to Employees Over Thirty-Eight Millions More Dollars Than Last Year.

Wage-earners throughout the United States will receive, by many millions, more money during 1933 than ever before in the history of the country. Increases in wages granted by the great railroad and industrial corporations within the last two months show that during the coming year 658,900 employees will receive \$38,350,000 more than they did last year. Negotiations are now in progress by which 110,000 employees of various railroads in the west and south will receive increases aggregating \$4,000,000 annually.

Scores upon scores of small corporations or business firms, each employing a few hundred men or women, have made wage advances. There is no way of computing exactly the number of these or the employees or the amounts involved, but a conservative estimate of the grand total of employees who will receive higher wages during 1933 is 900,000, and the sum involved will be in the neighborhood of \$50,000,000.

Railroad men receive a more generous share of the increase in wages than any other class of workmen. There are about 1,200,000 men employed by the railroads of the country, including everybody from the laborer up to the president. Of these 1,200,000 over 600,000, or more than one-half, will receive on an average 10 per cent. more in wages than they did in 1932.

Not only have direct increases in wages been granted, but other corporations have devised schemes by which employees will be able to share substantially in the profits. Stockholders in the railroads which have made the increases will not suffer. In fact, the indications are that they will gain materially by the increase, as it was employed as a reason for advancing freight rates from 10 to 20 per cent.

GREAT INCREASE IN RENTS.

The Property of the Crown in London Now Brings in Large Sums of Money.

Among the great ground landlords in London the crown is one of the greatest, owning properties in various parts of the capital yielding in ground rents \$2,300,000 per annum.

Fifteen years ago the estates produced \$1,000,000; but many leases have fallen in within that time, and the increased rents have been exacted for renewal fines or for new leases.

The Carlton hotel is a striking instance of the increased value of ground in London. Formerly the site on which the hotel stands was held from the crown for a ground rent of \$3,500 per annum; now \$21,000 yearly has to be paid.

In 1896 Earl Spencer, when renewing the lease of his house in St. James' place, had to pay \$1,300 per annum in place of \$450 under the original lease, while Lord Salisbury, who up to 1895 paid only \$50 for the garden of his house in Arlington street, has his ground rent raised to \$220, which is still far from exorbitant as ground rents go.

In recent years judicious investments in ground rents on behalf of the crown have been made, and when all existing old leases fall in and come to be renewed, it is expected that more than \$5,000,000 per annum will be realized.

QUICK TRIP AROUND WORLD.

Austrian Official Says That It Will Be Possible Next Year to Accomplish Journey in Forty Days.

The director of the sleeping-car company of Austria says a journey around the world in the course of the next year may be accomplished in 40 days. When the rails of the Siberian line are all relaid, it will be possible on the first through trains to go from Moscow to Irkutsk in six days, and from Irkutsk to Vladivostok of Port Arthur in three days. The time table around the world will then be: Paris to Vladivostok, 13 days; to Yokohama, 2 days; to Vancouver, 12 days; to New York, via the Canadian Pacific railway, 4 days; to Cherbourg, 6 days, and to Paris in less than half a day. Director Nagelmackers says he is now receiving letters from Peking by way of Siberia in from 20 to 22 days.

INCREASE IN LUNATICS.

The Total Number of Unfortunates in United Kingdom in 1932 Was 146,031.

The lunacy returns of England show an appalling increase during the last generation and a half. The number of registered lunatics in the United Kingdom in 1859 was 47,992; in 1902 the number had increased to 148,631, of these 110,713 being in England alone, where the yearly increase works out about 2,000 victims. The official view is that the increase is more important than real; that the case is rather one of accumulation; that if there be an increase it is not out of proportion to the increase of population.

Small Reason for Suicide. Another man has killed himself because he feared that he was going to lose his mind. In most of these cases, says the Chicago Chronicle, the deceased had mighty little mind to lose.

EARTH SHAPE OF PEAR.

English Mathematician Offers New Theory of the World's Configuration.

J. H. Jeans, one of the greatest mathematicians that Cambridge university has produced in recent years, contributed a paper at the last meeting of the Royal Society, in which he made novel suggestions in regard to the figure of the earth. He said there was probably a time when the rigidity of the planet was so small that the configuration was pear-shaped. The transition from a pear-shaped jelly to a steel-like spheroid had taken place through a series of ruptures. Nevertheless traces of the pear-shaped configuration were still discernible. England, he said, is the center of a hemisphere which is practically all land. This hemisphere represents the blunt end of a pear. It is along the boundary of this hemisphere that earthquake attempts at the readjustment of form are and were most frequent.

"Tracing a circle about the globe," he said, "at a greater distance from England as the center, we pass over a region of the very deep seas of the Pacific, southern Atlantic and Indian oceans. Along this circle there is a waist of pear. Finally, at the antipodes of England, Australia is the remains of the pear stalk."

If one accepts these views the existence of a large tract of land about the south pole becomes more doubtful than ever.

SEES DANGER IN FAST AUTO.

The Medical Press of London Discovers 100-Mile-an-Hour Collision.

The Medical Press of London foresees a new and awful danger from the promised automobile, which may succeed the ordinary train, carrying passengers at the rate of 100 miles an hour. Each automobile must carry a large supply of highly inflammable liquid, which at present railways will carry only under the most stringent restrictions. What will happen when the automobile sustains a collision? An instantaneous, gigantic conflagration involving the whole of the wreck. But there is one consolation.

"The passage of the petroleum vapor into the lungs," says the Press, "would probably determine insensibility forthwith. This consolation reminds one of the statement made by the theatrical manager who tried to soothe an audience, panic-stricken at a fire, by assuring them that there was a reservoir on the roof that would drown them all at once."

FINDS GOLD, BUT JOY KILLS.

Black Hills Prospector Makes a Strike After Years of Search and It Proves Too Much for Him.

David Thompson, one of the best-known prospectors in the Black Hills, over which country he had hunted gold for 17 years, the other day struck a ledge of fabulous richness and died of joy a few moments later. The doctors found death was due to the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain.

Thompson came to the hills 17 years ago from the east with all the enthusiasm of an old miner. He roamed the hills and prospected over every part of the country, but made no strike of any value. While at work near Deadwood he finally uncovered a vein of rich ore which is described as showing a fabulous wealth of free gold. The discovery led to his death.

NEW JOURNAL FOR GERMANY.

Syndicate Formed to Start a Newspaper in Berlin with Emperor William's Approval.

A syndicate is being formed at Berlin for the purpose of founding a German national newspaper. Prince Fuerstenberg, a relative of Emperor William and an exceedingly rich man, is at the head of the movement. It is proposed to make the paper the mouthpiece of German official opinion. Though there are many excellent newspapers in Germany none of them have wielded much influence. This is due in part to the contempt in which Bismarck held all publications. The new paper will be patterned somewhat after the London Times. The plan has the approval of the kaiser.

AMERICAN WOMAN IN GREEN.

Mrs. Guy Chetwynd Causes Stir in London Ball by Her Very Striking Costume.

A great stir was caused at Mr. Ronalds' New Year's party in London by the arrival of Mrs. Guy Chetwynd (formerly Mrs. Rosaline Secor, of New York) in a beautiful gown of green with a hat to match, trimmed with paradise plumes, while the dress was ablaze with diamonds and the clasp in her hat was a superb diamond ornament. Around her throat she wore a double string of exquisite pearls. Her cloak was of chinchilla. She went with the countess of Rosney, who introduced her all around. There was no singing, but the soft, instrumental music permitted conversation, and the gramophone was delightful to all.

A Thrilling Tale.

Mascagni is writing a book in which he intends to relate his experiences with American constables. The troubles of Sindbad the Sailor, says the Chicago Record-Herald, will pale into insignificance in comparison with the Italian composer's hardships.

THE ARCTIC PROBLEM

Walter Wellman, the Explorer, Declares He Holds Its Solution.

Discusses the Efforts Made to Reach the North Pole—Says Earth's Magnetic Pole Should Be Reached This Year.

Walter Wellman, in a letter to the New York World, says he knows how the north pole can be reached, and will put his knowledge at the service of an earnest pole seeker. He writes as follows: "So far as I know, the only arctic expeditions planned for 1933 are those of William Ziegler, of New York, with the north pole as its objective, and Prof. Alimidega, of Norway, designed to locate the earth's magnetic pole. The latter is a comparatively easy task, and should be accomplished during the year. It is highly important for the purposes of science that the magnetic pole be occasionally visited, and that studies be made of the phenomena of which it is one of the two centers.

"The north magnetic pole lies in the northern part of North America, about 2,000 statute miles from the north pole. The south magnetic pole, occupying a relative position in the antarctic, has never been reached by man. Capt. Borchgrevink having been no nearer than 220 miles. So many obstacles lie in the way of reaching the north pole that the feat is not likely to be soon performed. Many efforts during the past 25 years—failed, though man's approach to the northern terminus of the axis of our earth has been narrowed down to a matter of 250 miles.

"The Ziegler expedition of 1911-1912 was a wretched failure, and arctic students are not optimistic as to the results of the forthcoming effort. Mr. Ziegler provides the funds with splendid generosity, but his agents dissipate them upon the mistaken principle that elaborateness of outfit spells success.

"The truth is, attainment of the north pole is a matter of men, not of money. Of course the tools of the trade must be employed—a ship, dogs, sledges, special food, etc.—but beyond that the prime elements are the knowledge gained by actual experience, special adaptation of means to the end in view, muscle, pluck and luck. As a rule, the simpler the outfit the better. That stern friend of knowledge, Sir John Banon, said: 'The north pole is the only place in the world we know nothing about, and that stain of ignorance should be removed from this enlightened age.'

"Having made a special, practical field study of the art of arctic travel, I assert that I know how the north pole can be reached, and this information I will willingly give anyone who will utilize it in advancing the frontier of knowledge to the very center of the unknown region of the north."

AMERICAN SOCIETY PROSPERS.

Women's Organization in London is Seeking a New Home in Piccadilly.

That famous organization called the Society of American Women in London, and known among its members as the "S. A. W. L.," is about to make another step in advance and is looking about for a home in the vicinity of Piccadilly.

The organization is representative of the best of social life in the permanent American colony in London, estimated somewhere between 15,000 and 20,000 persons. Much of the society's activity has been due to the tact and energy of the president, Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffin. It is a source of great regret to the society that by the terms of its constitution Mrs. Griffin's tenure of office as president is nearly over. She cannot be re-elected again. She will probably be succeeded by Mrs. Glyndes, who as Ella Dietz Clymer was the first president of Sorosis.

BIG RETURN FOR A LOAN.

Buffalo Conductor Pays Fare of Three Women and Two Years Later Receives \$1,000 Bill.

In October, 1901, S. H. Brown, conductor of a New York Central Belt line train that ran to and from the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo, loaned 15 cents for car fare to a woman and her two daughters who had been rendered temporarily penniless by the loss of her purse on the exposition grounds. Conductor Brown has just received a letter bearing a Philadelphia postmark. When he opened it a new \$1,000 bill fluttered to the floor. The accompanying letter, which was unsigned, recalled the exposition incident and stated that the bill was a remembrance of his deed.

Twins' Birthdays Different.

A difference of about three hours in the birth of sisters has led to the strange situation of twins having birthdays on different days and different years. Mr. and Mrs. John Stijt, 180 Sheffield avenue, Chicago, are the parents of the twins, and every one in the neighborhood is commenting on the curious circumstance. One of the twins was born at 10:30 p. m. on the last day of December, 1902, and about an hour and a half after midnight the second child was born. Her birthday is therefore January 1, 1903.

A Much-Broken Man.

The man in Cincinnati who has fallen and fractured some bone in his body 40 times since he was a boy is still alive, says the Chicago Tribune, but much broken.

EMPTY PIPE BRINGS SLEEP.

Old Remedy for Insomnia Suggested by One Who Has Tested Its Efficacy.

After giving a fair and patient trial to each of many alleged cures for sleeplessness, the writer stumbled across a simple method of inducing somnolence that has the merit of being harmless and inexpensive. To smokers the remedy involves no cost whatever, but of non-smokers the capital outlay of the price of a pipe is required. It must be a wooden pipe, and curved, not straight.

Having retired for the night, the sufferer should lie perfectly flat on his back, discarding pillow rests, and puff steadily at an empty pipe until he feels thoroughly drowsy. The desired result usually is achieved after from about 50 to 100 puffs have been made. The puffing should be done slowly, with a deep, inhaling movement. The expelling motions must be made deliberately with narrowed mouth. During the entire operation the piper should not be removed, as each displacing and replacing movement tends to wakefulness.

Those capable of great concentration of thought should, if smokers, imagine they see volumes of smoke, and those who eschew the burning weed will be helped by counting the puffs.

As sleep is often successfully wooed while yet the pipe is in the mouth, says the New York Mail and Express, bowls of meerschaum or clay are not recommended, since these are liable to be broken when the coming of slumber allows the pipe to slide from the mouth. Nervous people may be reassured that there is no danger in falling asleep with the stem edge of a curved pipe caught between one's teeth. Sleep always causes the grip to be relaxed. That may hold also of straight pipes, but for other and obvious reasons these are less suitable than those with curved stems.

MOUNTAINS OF BAGGAGE.

Tremendous Amount Handled in One New York Railway Station in September.

Few persons appreciate the tremendous passenger business that is being handled by the railroads. Here is an illustration that will open the eyes of some:

For the first six days of September there were received at the New York Grand Central station, 34,259 pieces of baggage, an average of 5,709 pieces per day. During the second week of September the average was a little over 3,000 pieces per diem. The baggage came in so rapidly and there was such an amount of it to be handled in a comparatively small space that it was with the greatest difficulty that the platforms were kept clear for incoming trains.

The first week in September is always the heaviest week in the year; so many people returning on the first of September from the lake and mountain resorts, in order to put the children in school, that it makes an immense traffic. The fact that this great amount of baggage was handled with reasonable promptitude, says the Municipal Journal and Engineer, and that very few trunks were either lost or seriously damaged speaks volumes for the efficiency of our transportation lines.

WELSH WOMEN AND ENGLISH.

Their Inability to Speak the Language Accounted For in a Singular Manner.

Rev. A. N. Cooper gives the following amusing explanation of why Welsh women in a certain valley in the Snowdon district do not speak English, while their husbands have a facility in the Saxon tongue, says the Yorkshire Post. He lost his way and called at a farmhouse.

The farmer could speak English, and his wife could not. That was the rule in Wales, and if any explanation is asked I prefer to give the farmer's rather than my own. A determined effort was made to get rid of the Welsh language some years ago when my farmer was at school. When school began one boy and one girl wore a board round their necks marked "W. N." (Welsh note.) If either heard one of their sex speaking a Welsh word, the board was passed on to the culprit, who passed it to another culprit, and so on. At 12 o'clock the master called up the possessor of the board and flogged him severely.

"Did they flog the girl, too?" I asked. "No; he just tapped the girl on the hand, and they did not care if they got the board or not, and that's why the women in our valley cannot speak English and the men can."

Horses Like Perfume.

However little credit a horse may commonly receive for possessing delicacy of scent, there are some perfumes grateful to him. Horse trainers are aware of the fact, and make use of their knowledge in training stubborn and apparently intractable animals. Many trainers have favorite perfumes, the composition of which they keep a secret, and it is the possession of this means of appealing to the horse's aestheticism that enable so many of them to accomplish such wonderful results.

Economy of Railways.

The United States has 200,000 miles of railways upon which there are 545 employes for each 100 miles. The cost of operating these roads with steam power is \$502,600,000 a year, but to carry on the same amount of work with men and horses would cost the country \$11,308,500,000.

ROBBERY BY PHONE.

Ingenuous Scheme by Which Valuable Jewelry is Obtained.

Sharper in England Succeeds in Getting Away with \$10,000 Worth of Gems Sent Supposedly for Inspection to Customer.

The ingenuity with which the countess of Selkirk was deprived of \$15,000 worth of jewels recently has been surpassed by certain individuals who have secured a \$10,000 haul of jewelry from Messrs. Oldfield, a large firm at Old Post Office place, Liverpool.

The telephone and telephone figure prominently in this remarkable story, which commenced about a fortnight ago, when Mr. Brocklebank, the head of a great shipping concern in Liverpool, came with his wife to the Inns of Court hotel, Holborn.

A great friend of the Liverpool merchant was Laing Miller, a wealthy South African shipowner. While the Brocklebanks were in London, a man, who said he was Mr. Miller, set up telephonic communication with the servants at Mr. Brocklebank's house at Liverpool, and ascertained that the family were away. He dispatched a telegram, in the name of Mrs. Brocklebank, to Messrs. Oldfield, requesting them to forward to her Liverpool residence a varied selection of jewelry, to be distributed as Christmas presents. He also telephoned to the house again, warning the servants that a parcel would arrive, and he (the pseudo Mr. Miller) had been commissioned by Mr. Brocklebank to call for it and take it to London.

As the Brocklebanks were old customers, Messrs. Oldfield complied with the wired request. The servants, knowing Mr. Laing Miller by name, and not by sight, had no suspicions when, soon after the arrival of the parcel of \$10,000 worth of jewelry, they handed it over to a well-dressed, effeminate, gentlemanly individual.

This happened on a recent Tuesday. Nothing more has been seen of the man, and the fraud was only discovered when Messrs. Oldfield sent to Mr. Brocklebank's house another quantity of jewelry, in case the first did not afford a sufficient scope of selection.

The servants telephoned their master to know what to do in the matter, and then the clever plan stood revealed. The last diamond robbery where the telephone played the principal part occurred in Ely place, Hatton garden, some few months ago, when a packet of diamonds valued at \$15,000 was stolen from the table of a diamond dealer.

MID FORTUNE IN BARN.

Kansas Man Who Distrusted Banks Reveals Secret Depository of His Wealth on His Death Bed.

Charles P. Robinson, aged 60 years, died at his home at Ottawa, Kan., of consumption. Robinson's death was the cause of the circulation of a singular story. When consumption fastened itself upon Robinson and his physician assured him that his death was only a question of weeks, he sent for some friends and had unearthed his accumulation of gold and greenbacks. A fortune of some \$7,000 was dug out of the manger of the Robinson barn and deposited in one of the city banks. The money was in gold and currency, and as it was shaken out of the fruit jars in which it was packed it spilled strongly of must and damp.

That Robinson had some wealth was generally understood, but that he had any supply of cash was scarcely suspected. Robinson's accumulations were the result of a saving policy thoroughly practiced. He brought when he went to Ottawa, 25 years ago, not a stick of wood dropped from a passing wagon into the street, escaped his attention. He was a kindly old man, an old soldier, and had a good war record.

His distrust of banks was one of his chief characteristics. How long he had been hoarding money about his place is not known, but it is presumed that he had it buried in various places for a good many years.

TO SEEK FLEET OF XERXES.

Effort to Be Made to Locate the Ships of the Great General So as to Secure the Art Treasures.

The treasures that lie at the bottom of the sea are now more easily obtainable by the invention of an instrument known as the hydroscope. This contrivance, says an Athens correspondent, is shortly to be put into operation in order to find the lost fleet of Xerxes, which has reined on the sea's bed undisturbed for about 2,300 years.

Search is also to be made for the ship chartered by Pompey to carry Roman art treasures to Athens, and wrecked in the archipelago 1,950 years ago.

To Test Big French Locomotive.

Arrangements have been made by the Great Western railway for the experimental adoption of one of the locomotives of the Northern railway of France, says a New York Tribune dispatch from London. These compound engines, it is asserted, are far ahead of the best types of English design.

A Queer Discrepancy.

According to a statement issued by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company, covering a stated length of time, 19,337 more people went to Manhattan from Brooklyn than from Manhattan to Brooklyn.