

SLANG IN THE MAKING.

Many of the Up-to-Date Phrases Cannot Be Traced to Their Origin.

The study of slang in the making has always been hampered by the fact that no investigator ever sees the inventor at his work. In some college student's room, behind the screens of a drinking hall, or among the roustabouts of the levee the words and highly colored phrases taken up by the world so readily have probably first been uttered. Where lived the man who coined word "chump?" asks the New York Evening Post. Who first thought of saying to his rival: "Go way back and sit down?" No one seems to know, and the inquirer has to be contented with inferior specimens for study. One of these has just come to light in Chicago. It is not one of the elusive sort, full of fancy and inspiring suggestions. But it has the merit of having been designed, as it were, before our eyes, like the wheat cakes which the white-capped cook makes in the window of a dainty restaurant. It is the word "seg," which is applied to the young women now attending the University of Chicago. Since coeducation has been abolished it is obviously inaccurate to call them coeds. At the same time, the word does not take up the less complimentary terms which the young men in some eastern colleges apply to their feminine fellow students. The new word is certainly as euphonic as the old (more so, if anything, because it has no hiatus), it is highly descriptive and not in the least uncomplimentary.

NEVER VICTIMS OF CUPID.

There Are More Bachelors Than Old Maids in the Census Enumeration.

It is estimated that there are now in the United States 2,500,000 more single men of marriageable age than there are single women, the official figures being as follows: Unmarried men, 10,448,153; unmarried girls and women, 7,973,819. The male population of the United States, through the excess of male immigration and the higher male birth rate, is more than 1,000,000 in excess of the female. The span of life is on the average longer for a woman than for a man and the marriageable age for women is several years younger than the average for men. As a consequence of this the number of widows is very largely in excess of the number of widowers, the figures being 2,700,000 and 1,200,000 respectively, says the San Francisco Argonaut.

There are more divorced women who have not remarried than there are divorced men, and for all these reasons the number of the single men of marriageable age is larger than the number of single women. In New York it is 240,000, in Pennsylvania 150,000, in Ohio 120,000, in Illinois 200,000, in California 150,000, in Texas 150,000 and in Kansas 75,000. In Massachusetts the number of unmarried men exceeds the number of unmarried women by only a few thousand. In Utah there are 25,000 unmarried men and 23,000 unmarried women of marriageable age. In Washington, the capital, the number of single men is 42,000 and of single women about the same.

MODERN CARTHAGE.

Where Stood the Famous Ancient City the Stalking Camel Now Draws American Plows.

For the first time in many centuries something modern has appeared on the site of the ancient city of Carthage. Here, where once flourished the arts of war and peace, is a vast, lonely plain. Of the streets through which the conquering Hannibal marched in triumph nothing remains but the shadeless wheat-fields. Popular Mechanics describes the stalking camel plodding along drawing the modern American plow or cultivator.

The soil is as rich as it was on the day when the Phoenicians founded the city, and the American and his industries have found their way to the historic spot where the Romans wrought such devastation in their conquests. Americans, in charge of native workmen, are seen directing the use of the modern farming implements in harvesting or tilling the soil. These machines are a source of wonder to the natives, who for generations employed only the crudest of farm implements. The place is on the northern coast of Africa, about ten miles from the present city of Tunis. Americans find the market there for their inventions a lucrative one.

THE RETORT COURTEOUS.

One Messenger Boy Who Was Not Slow in Countering on a Famous Wit.

George Ade is an expert at badinage, but in Chicago one day a little messenger boy got the better of him, says the New York Tribune. Having only a few minutes for luncheon, Mr. Ade had gone to a cheap place, and was sitting on a stool before a marble counter when the messenger boy entered, took a place beside the humorist, and ordered a piece of apple pie. As he ate the pie the fact became evident that his hands were dirty. There was on his plate a piece of cheese—a piece of very yellow, hard cheese, cut with mathematical precision, so that it resembled a cake of soap. Mr. Ade pointed to it and said: "Here, boy, take that and go wash your hands with it." The boy answered: "You take it, and go shave yourself." There was no possible rejoinder, for Mr. Ade's beard was undeniably of two or three days' growth.

NOT A MONEY-MAKING TRIP.

Dr. Lorenz, the Great Vienna Doctor, Discusses the Matter of His Receipts While in America.

Dr. Adolf Lorenz, who returned to New York city from Boston, while discussing his visit to this country, said in an interview: "There is one thing I want to say, and that is in regard to finance. I see it is reported that I have made in this country \$160,000. Now, as a matter of fact, I got one fee of \$30,000 in Chicago, and in the four months I have been here I have earned just \$30,000. My practice at home in four months is worth that. "True, I have seen a number of private patients in each of the cities I have visited, but, as you Americans says, in no instance have they more than paid the freight." As a matter of fact, it has been the physicians of the various cities who have profited by my visits. They are my colleagues, and I am glad they did, but you see I remained only two, three, four or perhaps five days. During that time I was working in the hospitals, in the clinics. The private patients began to come in and they were operated on by the local surgeons, who had witnessed my clinics. But I am glad I came. The trip has been the crowning success of my life. My trip here has not been successful, ethically, but not materially."

LOSE BIG RECORDS.

Fifty-Six Pound Weight Used by Athletes in Contests Is Found to Be Too Small.

James E. Sullivan, chairman of the A. A. U. record committee, has announced that a 56-pound weight which has been used at many athletic contests and which three records, including one world's record, were supposed to have been broken, had been weighed and measured by him and found both under weight and under size. Using this weight John Flanagan October 20, 1901, was credited with a world's record of 36 feet, 9 1/2 inches. With the same weight October 26, 1902, Richard J. Sheridan, of the Pastime Athletic club, was credited with the American record of 38 feet, 4 1/2 inches, unlimited run and follow. These two records were accepted by the A. A. U.

At the Star Athletic club games at Long Island City, November 1, 1902, James S. Mitchell threw the same weight 39 feet 3 inches from a stand without follow. This also would have been a record if accepted by the A. A. U.

Investigation will be made of all other throwing records made with this weight. The test showed that the weight was 1 1/2 pounds light and the triangular handle measured from one-half to 2 1/4 inches too long.

FIND GOLD REEF IN ALASKA.

Discovery in the Forty-Mile District Causes a Stampede of the Miners.

A great reef of gold-bearing quartz has been located by miners in the Forty Mile district, Alaska. The formation was traced for three miles and hundreds of claims were staked out. It contains stringers running as high as \$3,000 a ton.

The first stringers were found three months ago, but the matter was kept secret until the lucky prospector making the discovery could locate the trend of the ledge with the object of staking out as many claims as possible. Since the news was made public early in November a great stampede has taken place.

South African miners say the reef is similar in appearance and formation to some of the greatest gold-bearing ledges of South Africa.

It is supposed that the ledge is one of those ground down by glaciers during past ages, thereby loosening the present Yukon placer gold.

PREHISTORIC BONES FOUND.

The Skeletons of a Race of Giants Are Discovered on a Farm in Indiana.

A remarkable prehistoric graveyard has been unearthed on the farm of Solomon Hedrick in Henry county, Ind. A large number of human skeletons have been found and all are eight feet and more in height. Hedrick bought the farm some years ago and covering four acres was a mound 30 feet high, resembling a loaf of bread. The mound was rich in gravel and sand, although the surrounding land is low and shows no trace of either gravel or sand. The faint signs of a road led to the top of the mound. When about 12 feet of the surface had been removed the skeletons were found. The bones are mammoth in size and teeth are highly polished and well preserved. Trinkets, ivory beads, shields made of bone, and other articles were found in the graves. Hedrick will dig up the entire field in the hope of finding valuable articles.

Pointer for Spinsters. The census shows that there are in the United States 2,000,000 more bachelors than spinsters. Judiciously used, says the Chicago Chronicle, this information should enable the spinsters to direct the thoughts of the bachelors to more serious matters than ping-pong and theater parties.

Idle Dream of Coalless Winter. If the heat that Mount Pelee is wasting could be bottled up and used in these parts, says the Chicago Record-Herald, it would be a fine joke on some of the coal men.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL MIND.

There is Less Difference Between Them Than Most People Imagine.

The fact may not be flattering to the human race, but it is nevertheless true, as recent scientific investigation proves, that there is very little difference between the minds of animals and those of men. Those variations that exist are those of degree rather than of quality. On the whole the investigator in question thinks that animals certainly have some glimmering of reason. With regard to the senses of hearing and sight he has found that some animals can hear sounds inaudible to us and can perceive rays of light that are invisible to the human eye. Atmospheric vibrations striking from 33 to 30,000 per second strike the human ear and produce the sense of sound. But certain animals can hear vibrations more rapid than this—that is, they can hear higher notes than we can, says Nature.

In the same way vibrations of the ether impinging on the human retina produce the sense of color. These, measured on the ample scale of millions of millions per second, vary in number from 400 to 700. By the aid of the thermometer and of photography, respectively, we have discovered the existence of rays beyond the red at one end of the spectrum and beyond the violet at the other. It has been found that animals are sensitive to rays beyond the violet end. It is, therefore, quite possible that the world around us is to animals "full of music which we cannot hear, of color which we cannot see and of sounds which we cannot conceive."

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN INDIA.

It Has Some Very Curious Sides for Professionals Engaged in Healing.

A correspondent has sent us from Calcutta a collection of anecdotes bearing on the supposed efficacy of contact with live animals in the treatment of certain morbid conditions, says the London Lancet. Some 60 years ago, he says, there was a great Kaviraj or Bengali, physician in Nuddea, whose name was either Janardan or Jagannath. This worthy followed the method of the ancient school of Indian practitioners, and was, moreover, a specialist in the "animal cure." When sent for to attend a young man suffering from asthma he announced that he would employ the "goat treatment." Ghee prepared with goat's flesh was administered internally and a goat which made itself disagreeably perceptible to the nasal organs was brought into the room three times a day. The patient inhaled the odor, made use of the animal as a pillow, huggedit during his paroxysms, and recovered in a few days.

The "reptile cure" was prescribed for a patient attacked with a violent headache. A large snake was caught in the jungle and after its jaws had been properly secured it was wrapped round the sufferer's head. The poor snake died in a few minutes, but the patient made a rapid recovery.

ABOUT SUBMARINE CABLES.

How They Have Multiplied Since the First One Was Laid Half a Century Ago.

It is more than 50 years since the first submarine cable for commercial use was laid in the straits of Dover, but all the work since 1851 in reticulating the ocean beds with 200,000 miles of cable has been a training for the severer problems of the Pacific, a deeper body of water, with longer spans, than any previously encountered. All the other 1,750 cables, little and big, have afforded lessons of value for this, the boldest undertaking of the kind.

As usually happens, the Pacific no sooner has one cable stretching from Asia to North American shores than it becomes possessed of two. Apparently nature abhors a monopoly no less than it does a vacuum. While the \$275,000,000 invested in submarine cables pays very well on the whole, says a writer in the North American Review, it may be doubted whether at first the two Asian-American cables can earn much profit. That, however, is not directly the question. When Dewey cut the cable in Manila bay he decided for the United States the point that at least one Pacific cable must land on our shores.

HOW ARROWHEADS WERE MADE

Indians Broke Flint Rock Into Small Pieces by Heating and Dropping on Water.

We did not know until to-day how the Indians made the flint arrowheads that are very often found all over the country. They had no tools to work with, and the question of how they made them was not answered. "Abel" Matheny, who was for many years a heap big chief of the Wahoo tribe, says the squaws broke flint rock into small pieces by putting it into the fire. They then selected a suitable piece for an arrowhead, held it in the fire till it got hot, then put a drop of water on it, which "chipped off" a small particle of the flint, and by this slow and tedious process the squaws shaped the arrowheads, says the Eldorado Republican. A look at an arrowhead will convince one that this was the process adopted to make them, all they all have rough surfaces.

Penalty for Tobacco Selling. Returns obtained by the Scottish Anti-Tobacco society show that in four-fifths (or 43) of the United States of America it has been made a penal offense to give or sell tobacco in any form to children. The age limit varies from 14 up to 21.

GREAT LION HUNT PLANNED.

Montana Ranchers Desperate from Nightly Losses of Stock to Hold Grand Round-Up.

Driven to desperation by the losses of stock as a result of the depredations of mountain lions, the ranchers and stockmen of northern Montana are organizing an immense drive, which will be, perhaps, without a parallel in western history. The recent blizzard and intense cold have forced the animals from their mountain lairs into the valleys below in quest of food. It is proposed to have about 100 men engage in the chase, and from different points they will proceed toward a common center, which will be some mountain basin. Into this trap the lions will be driven and then picked off by the marksmen.

Nightly losses of stock are of frequent occurrence, the hungry animals attacking full-grown cattle with impunity. The lions are very powerful and drag a carcass of a cow with ease. Recently a trapper by the name of Charles Hackett had a narrow escape in an encounter with a band of 17 lions in the Fish River country.

While a short distance from his camp inspecting his traps, the animals endeavored to surround him. By hugging the river he made his camp in safety, with the lions not more than 50 yards distant. Hackett's only weapon upon this occasion was a revolver.

It has been suggested that President Roosevelt be informed of the hunting grounds. Hackett says the president can find all the lions he wishes to shoot in the Fish river country. Bears, also, are very plentiful in this section.

IS AARON BURR'S SON.

Man One Hundred and Eighty Years Old Returns to Detroit After an Absence of Thirty Years.

Charles Henry Burr Crosby, who claims he is a son of Aaron Burr, vice president of the United States during the first term of Jefferson, has returned to his home in Detroit after an absence of 30 years. He arrived in Detroit Thanksgiving morning. Mr. Crosby is now in his one hundred and eighth year and is fast nearing his ninth birthday over the century mark.

The elder Crosby's story of Burr's last days is an interesting one. When Burr came back to this country his once mighty brain had deserted him. Poor in health and with little of his former vast fortune he managed to exist on a meager law practice. His wife had died, and when he met a squaw of negro and Indian blood he fell in love with her. The squaw's father had been taken from Africa as a slave. The bride of Burr was a handsome woman and for her station in life fairly refined.

The old man in Detroit says that he was their only son. Crosby says his mother was sent to England because of popular indignation against the union. He claims to have roamed the world, and in one of his sea voyages asserts he learned that Theodosia Burr, his half-sister, as he calls her, was forced to walk the plank by pirates who captured the ship in which she and her husband, Joseph Alstin, left Charleston for New York in 1783.

JOINS HIS FATHER'S TROOP.

Young Soldier Leaves West Point Military Academy to Work Up in the Banks.

James M. Lockett, son of Capt. James Lockett, of the Fourth cavalry, commanding a troop of that regiment at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, in his eagerness to secure a commission and follow in a career in which his father has won distinction, has resigned a cadetship at West Point and enlisted as a private in his father's troop. He has arrived at the barracks from West Point and has drawn his uniform and equipment will take up life with the barracks troopers. The young soldier of 19 realizes the difference between the life of a West Point cadet, who receives much attention and admiration, and a cavalry private, who must curry his own horse daily, but such is his desire to receive a commission as soon as possible that he is ready to undergo any hardship that may fall to his lot. His father approves his course.

DANGER IN LORENZ METHOD.

The Philadelphia Medical Journal Warns Against Indiscriminate Practice.

In an editorial considering the Lorenz method the Philadelphia Medical Journal says: "Undoubtedly many looked with profit upon his work and in the future will do as good work as Lorenz, but we cannot refrain from sounding a warning against the indiscriminate practice of this method. "It is accompanied with dangers. As the author of it acknowledges, accidents have occurred to him at home, they have occurred to him in this country and in wisely selected cases. Any one attempting this treatment must look well into the character of the parts to be manipulated and must not expect at first to accomplish the results as easily as does Lorenz, but must remember that the latter's deftness comes with long experience and has been obtained after serious mishaps."

Neck Stretching Business. Detroit doctors stretched the neck of a gentleman in the hope of restoring him to reason. Thus, says the Chicago Chronicle, are the methods adopted by far western vigilance committees ultimately utilized by science.

HATS OF CORNHUSKS.

Style of Headgear That Will Rivet the Costly Panama the Coming Summer.

Corn husks during the present season have been bought up for the purpose of utilizing them in the manufacture of a new style of hat which may become both fashionable and popular next summer, says the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

The material is cheap. In fact, it is usually wasted. Properly cured corn husks are tough and may be folded without cracking. Dampened, they may be made to assume any desired shape.

The process of working corn husks into hats is novel, somewhat intricate, and is protected by patent. It is said that samples already turned out are artistic as well as light and strong.

An element which enters significantly into the construction of the hat is the natural shape of the husks, which taper in width from base to tip. When split, the parts maintain this configuration, as they parallel the fiber. This tapering of all the parts has been an important feature in the manufacture of the hat. The brim and top of the hat are formed by a series of layers of corn husks. The outer end of some of these layers are pointed. Considerable ingenuity has been displayed in the entire construction of the hat—even the band is made of corn husks—and it is asserted that the result is graceful and attractive, and that, though it may be constructed economically to be sold at popular prices, more expensive brands, requiring exceptional skill in the manufacture, will be turned out to meet the demand for hats at fancy prices.

ORIGIN OF "GREENHORN."

Term Used by Hunters Many Years Ago to Designate Deer with Ailing Antlers.

The democratic cloakroom of the senate held a congenial company, of whom Mr. Vest, of Missouri, was the center. There were reminiscences and pithy reminiscences, the conversation eventually turning to former Senator Turpie, of Indiana. All agreed that he was a man of erudition, and someone ventured that Mr. Turpie, now residing among his own people in the Hoosier state, is one of the best informed in belles lettres of any man who ever came to the senate, says the Washington Post.

"I recall," interposed Senator Vest, "an incident along that line, which demonstrates what a marvel Mr. Turpie is in his fund of information. I was once in a company where a question arose as to the origin of the term 'greenhorn.' The question went around until it reached Mr. Turpie. 'Oh, yes,' observed Mr. Turpie, readily. 'It is a term that was used many years ago in hunting. The word was used of deer which at certain seasons of the year have soft and green horns, and resort to muddy depressions in the landscape, where they can plunge those horns into the mud and water to cool them. "There the deer became easy prey for the hunters, and accordingly, became known as 'greenhorns.' From that we have the use of the word as it is applied to men."

HEIRS OF JOHN HANCOCK.

Descendants of the American Patriot Put in Claims for French Spoils Money.

It looks as if the "line of descent" from John Hancock of revolutionary fame might have to be run down for the purpose of determining at this late day who are his heirs-at-law, says the Boston Herald. Though the governor died about 1793, and all his estate then apparent was administered upon by Dorothy Hancock, his widow, it has recently come to pass that his estate is entitled to something by virtue of a French spoliation claim, and in order to receive payment of it supplemental administration has to be taken out on his estate.

A few months ago Mr. George A. King, an attorney, upon the request of Mrs. Elizabeth L. H. Wood, upon the supposition that she was the only heir at law of the patriot, filed a petition in the Probate court for Suffolk county, asking that he be appointed administrator of the unadministered estate. It now appears that Mary S. Sanford, of Westchester, says that she is one of John Hancock's heirs, and Albert F. Converse, her counsel, has filed an appearance in the case in opposition to the petition. The matter is pending in court, no day for the consideration of the matter having been fixed.

Little Loss in Post Office.

The post office money order department handles about \$300,000,000 a year. The loss by the dishonesty and carelessness of clerks has been only \$251 in the last two years, but this is partly explained by the fact that the clerks are made responsible for the money they handle, and any loss is considered theirs.

Examination of Pork.

The quantity of pork examined microscopically which was exported last year amounted to 33,651,229 pounds. The cost of this work per pound was one-third of a cent.

No Veal in Transvaal.

For two years the slaughter of cows, heifers and calves for sale as meat is prohibited in the Transvaal, under penalty of £50 fine or six months imprisonment.

Disasters From Volcanoes.

The five volcanoes active last year destroyed 60,000 lives.

THEN THERE WERE FISH.

Great Catch of Muskellunge Described by an Old Wisconsin Lumberman.

James Hell is a lumberman who has been in the woods of Minnesota and Wisconsin for many years. It has been his business for several decades to "run camp" in the winter, which is to say, that he takes from 60 to 75 lumber jacks into the forests from December to April and holds them down by weight of authority and muscle and makes them do their work of felling and driving out timber. He has seen the vast masses of pine melt before the ax and just now is cutting hemlock because no pine grows, says the New York Sun.

"The lessening of the number of wild animals and the difference between the sport a man could have then and can have now," Hell says, "are as great as the change in the forests. There were a hundred deer then where there are ten deer now, there were a thousand partridges where there are ten now, and as for the fishes they may be said, comparatively speaking, to have almost disappeared from the waters."

"Men come into our north woods of recent summers and fish industriously with improved modern appliances for two weeks, and if they catch two muskellunge a day, averaging ten pounds each, they go back home thinking that they have had great luck. They have some of the ten-pounders stuffed and hung up in their dining-rooms and point to them with pride.

"I've seen the time when a man would get irritated if a fish of only ten pounds got hooked and was caught. He would rather kill it in spite or throw it back with a curse. Nothing less than 25 pounds went then as a muskellunge catch, and there were lots of big fellows brought to gaff that ran above 40 pounds. I've seen them taken that went over 50."

"I remember being some years ago on the Flambeau river just below the spot where the town of Park Falls stands now. A dam had been built across the stream to back the water up so that there would be a full head in the spring when the ice broke and we would want to float the logs out to the Chippewa."

"The dam was built in the fall with massive water-tight gates and to see how it would work when finished we shut the gates down one day. That had the effect of stopping the water from above and naturally the water below ran away with great swiftness. It went so fast, in fact, that the fish did not know what was happening and in a little while they found themselves in the holes among the rocks of the bottom with mighty little fluid to keep them alive."

"You never saw the like of the bass and muskellunge, particularly the muskies. Their backs were everywhere showing above the water and they flopped on the rocks and jumped two feet high sometimes, trying to escape from the new stream that had them in his grip. Maybe a thousand were in sight."

"We wanted fish, so the bunch of us called in. Some of us had peaches and some catfishes and some clubs and some nothing but their hands and they looted the great fish out of their holes at the lumber log. The pursuit lasted some ten minutes; then the gates were raised and the lower level flooded and such fish as were left got away all right."

"I don't know how many we caught, but not less than 500 at a throw, and while we did not stop to separate the big ones from the little ones they would average easily ten pounds or so. Five thousand pounds of muskellunge meat is a sizable pile and I suppose that I and the men who were with me are the only human beings who ever saw that much of it together. We did not take any of the bass, they were too small game."

GIRLS THAT EAT SUGAR.

A London Physician Says They Grow Tall-Lengthened Sweethearts.

That English girls just reaching womanhood, and the next generation into its early teens, are unusually tall—standing a head or more above their mothers—has been remarked on over and over again, and has been made the subject of learned disquisitions. Yet no generally accepted cause has been given for the fact up to this time.

Now comes a London physician of note and says that it is simply a case of lengthened sweetness, says the Detroit Free Press. By "sweetness" in this particular case the nature of the young ladies is not referred to, but their diet. In fact, statistics of recent years show that Americans and Britons of both sexes are increasing in height and weight. Why? The physician referred to says it is sugar. But then it is equally well known that too much sugar destroys the digestion. So sugar-eaters must beware!

Great Britain and America are the sugar-eating nations of the world and have quadrupled their saccharine consumption in the last score of years.

This is now the best explanation of an accepted fact, and it will have to stand until a better one is brought forward.

Russian Shoe Trust.

A gigantic shoe trust exists in Russia. Nearly all the shoes sold in that country are manufactured by one firm in St. Petersburg, which is one of the most prosperous stock companies in the world.—N. Y. Sun.

Best and Worst.

"When a man's temper gets the best of him it shows him at his worst"—Chicago Daily News.