

WORKING IN MID-AIR.

The Sheer Recklessness Modern House Builders Cannot Be Equaled the World Over.

The men who put together the steel framework of a modern building seem to work as easily ten stories up as the giant skeleton as if they were sitting by the kitchen fire.

The Baltimore Sun says that house-smiths are the most reckless lot of men in the world. "We were putting up a big hotel. The framework had just reached the eighth story, and the masonry and the flooring of one or two of the stories were already in.

"There seemed to be no chance for his life. Somehow, though, he fell against the slack guy-rope which was dangling from the beam. His leg and arm got tangled in it three stories below, and he stuck to the rope. More than that, the slack rope actually swung him into a window in the fifth story. That happened to be one of the few in which the flooring had been put in, and the rope dropped him on the floor unhurt.

LAW FOR MAD DOGS.

Hydrophobia is Guarded Against in England by Rigid Legislation.

It is still, we believe, an open question among people who don't know anything about it, whether there is such a thing as rabies among human beings, says Collier's Weekly.

"Yes, I believe I did see one," replied the officer. "Did he look to be nigh a hundred years old?" "He looked pretty old."

"Well, now, take a look at me and see if I resemble him. Am I an old outamfarn with one foot in the grave, or am I a bounding young fellow of 35 who's goin' to shine up to the nicest little widdler woman in the state of Michigan?"

The wister had been unusually severe, and the lake from which the bee company gathered its crop was frozen to a much greater depth than usual.

"We may have to charge more," stily replied the president. "Think of the trouble and expense involved in outfitting ice three feet thick!"

FEMINE FADS AND FANCIES.

Many Pretty Trifles That Are in Vogue with Devotees of Dame Fashion.

Russian and Egyptian embroideries in red, blue and black give a smart touch to cloth costumes. Some of the new passementeries are composed of white Irish linen with lace applique, reports the Brooklyn Eagle.

Artistically colored laces are quite the latest craze as a trimming for summer dresses. Canvas dresses will be much worn. Royal blue is fashionable for day and evening wear.

A pretty fashion now prevailing in England is to send out wedding cards in the form of a booklet, printed in silver, with the bride's name crased by a cupid's arrow.

TURNING TIME BACK.

Rejuvenating Influence of Hair Dye Upon a Man Who Contemplated Matrimony.

A patrolman on Michigan avenue the other afternoon noticed a man about 70 years old going into a barber shop with his breezes from Oakland county toying with his snowy locks and venerable whiskers, and an hour later, as he stood on a corner, he was approached and addressed, says the Detroit Free Press:

"Don't smell anything like eggs a year old, do you?" "Not the first sign. Say, young man, don't you go to drinking and get on a tear with the boys."

"I suppose, colored," remarked a citizen to the president of the company one cold morning, "that you won't charge us so much for our ice next summer as you did last. You're getting a tremendous crop."

"I'm afraid of accidents on the cars," said an old lady, when her physician advised her to travel.

HANDLING LARGE TURTLES.

Interesting Particulars of a Business That is Done on Large Scale in New York City.

Down in Fulton Market is a big burly man nicknamed "Turtle Bill," who probably knows more about turtles than any other expert in the town. For 15 years "Bill" has handled turtles of every sort, from the 15-pound "snappers" that will take a finger off as if it were a toothpick, to the great 200-pound green turtles often seen lying on their backs with their "flippers" outside of restaurants, says the New York Times.

It is no easy thing to handle big turtles," explained "Bill," patting the under-shell of a monster lying in his "cave-out" in a well-known store-room maintained by a big turtle dealer. "Some of the big green chaps are a pretty heavy lot—we've had one here pitting the scale at 500 pounds—and when it comes to handling snapping turtles it means to be careful or you'll lose a finger quick as a wink."

"The smaller turtles are caught in nets. The big fellows are caught by hand when they venture ashore to lay eggs. The natives know the habits of the turtles, and lay for them along the sandy beaches where the deposit of the eggs takes place. A turtle is spotted poking her head out of the water for a convenient spot where to lay her eggs deep in a sand hole. No attempt is made to catch the animal until the eggs have been laid and covered up and until the turtle is again heading to get back to the water. Then it is intercepted and driven shoreward and overtaken and turned on its back, after which its flippers are tied. In this position it is loaded into ships and brought north.

TURTLE AND BULLFROG MEET.

Blockade Raised by the Latter's Suddenly Remembering That He Could Jump.

In a pool of the bullfrogs, smaller turtles and alligators, at the Aquarium, there is a log six or eight feet long that the turtles like to climb on. A bullfrog hopped on one end of this log the other day just as a turtle climbed up on the other end, and each moving along the log toward the end at which it had mounted it, the two soon met, face to face, at the center, and then they halted and settled down and looked at each other, relates the New York Sun.

The incident is worth mentioning again because it furnishes so good an illustration of the manner in which present-day accidents are made future safeguards. One would not be very wide of the truth in saying that those who die in accidents are martyrs for whose deaths come blessings for their successors.

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DAYS OF THE DAGUERRETYPE

When a Separate Sitting Was Required for Each Picture—Particularities of Meters.

One does not have to be very old to remember the time when a daguerreotype was the only photograph. Yet today, when in the fraction of a second is made the negative from which hundreds of pictures may be printed, we seem very far removed from the days when a separate sitting was required for each picture.

Abraham Bogardus, one of the first Americans to use Daguerre's process, once favored the Companion with some reminiscences—now first printed—that throw an interesting light on those "old times," which, after all, were not so very long ago, says Youth's Companion. "Monday was always the best business day of the week," said the veteran.

"Indeed, a mustache was seldom seen, and it required considerable courage to appear with one. Young women would laugh and street urchins were ready to ridicule the wearer."

SAFETY IN TRAVEL.

Means to Protect Passengers Keep Pace with the Growth of Communities.

Almost every issue of the daily newspapers contains an account of one or more railway wrecks or marine disasters in which lives have been lost. The natural inference from this fact is that the dangers of travel are great.

"The companion not long ago referred to an accident in New York harbor by which a number of lives were lost in a collision between two ferryboats. Investigation showed that the accident was due to the sudden death, by apoplexy or heart disease, of the pilot. The discovery led to the passage of a state law which now keeps two pilots always on duty.

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A CAR BEAUTY'S WATERLOO.

She Couldn't Attract the Indifferent Young Man and the Other Passengers Knew It.

The car was well filled with men when the young lady with the new spring costume and the latest thing in hats entered. Because she was young and not feeble, but evidently very strong, three or four men at once offered her a seat. She accepted the nearest with a smile and a nod, and sank into it, says the New York Times.

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RUSSIAN LADY A NAVY.

A Distinguished Chemical Scholar Found to Be Working as a Man.

The "Lokal Anzeiger" states that the "watchman" at a crossing on the Russian Southern railway, who goes under the name of Alexander Rodichevsky, is really the daughter of a high railway official. She sought and found work as a navy on the line some time ago, and proved so intelligent and industrious as to soon become foreman. When the position as watchman became vacant, it was given to her, and she discharged the duties with unflinching regularity and zeal.

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ELECTRICAL RAILWAYS.

Preliminary Census Reports Show That Great Gains Have Been Made in Twelve Years.

The census preliminary report on street and electric railways for the year ended June 30, 1902, shows a total of 957 companies with a net income of \$9,955,234; dividends, \$1,968,216; surplus \$10,947. The average number of salaried officials was 2,749, salaries \$4,625,013; clerks 4,391, salaries \$2,573,916; all other employees 131,133, wages \$77,437,324. The length of line (first main track) was 16,608 miles, length of single track 22,589 miles. These figures do not include track under construction and not operated.

It is, indeed, one of the triumphs of civilization that life is all the time better safeguarded. In no respect is this truer than in regard to travel.

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THE COTTON PRODUCTION.

Figures of the Census Office Which Show That Last Year's Crop Was a Good One.

The census office has just made public the final figures of cotton production obtained from the reports of cotton ginners. The quantity of cotton ginned from the growth of 1902, exclusive of bales, amounted to 11,075,882 cotton bales. Bales as pressed at the ginners are equal to 10,620,342 bales of a 500-pound standard, or counting round bales as half bales, 10,620,342. During the four years covered by the ginning reports of the census office, the average crop, exclusive of bales, has been 9,392,277 bales, of 500 pounds. The crop of 1902 shows an increase of 1,683,605 bales over the average, while the crops of 1901 and 1901 show a decrease of 558,880 and 392,532 bales, respectively. For the crop of 1902 there has been a general increase in all the states, both east and west of the Mississippi river, with the exception of Alabama and Texas. Drought in Alabama and drought and the boll weevil in Texas are responsible for the losses in those states.

NEW METHOD OF OPERATION.

Powerful Magnet Used to Extract a Piece of Steel from Cheek of Workman.

John Gettag, an apprentice at the navy yard at Vallejo, Cal., was severely injured by a piece of steel which flew from a tool, imbedding itself in his face. It was thought that the metal had been entirely removed from the wound, but recently it showed indications of the presence of a foreign substance.

THE PRINTING OF BIBLES.

Why the American Bible Society May Daily Issue Copies of the King James' Version.

In answer to Unity, a Unitarian paper, of Chicago, which criticizes the American Bible society for not printing the revised version of the Bible, Rev. Dr. Edward P. Ingersoll, secretary of the society, said the other night: "We have printed the Bible in nearly 100 languages and dialects. More than one-half our work is in foreign languages. We print only the King James version in the English language. Why? because our charter, given in 1816, holds us to this version. We are not permitted with the money that has been given us to print any other English version until our charter is changed."