PIG AND PYTHON IN BATTLE Young Perker Vigorously Objects to Becoming a Meal of Rig

Serpent.

The curator and keepers of the zee have an extremely delicate contract on their hands catering to the various anpolities and moods of the charges, says the New York correspondent of the Bal-**Mano**re Bun.

One of the pythons recently manifestbe a desire for something stronger than ggs, live rabbits and chickens. It reraped to look at any of these dainties and so as a last resort a little pig was introduced into the reptiles care to see what would happen.

A visious fight followed. The pig succeptised in the python his natural enemy, and he determined to sell his life dearly, if he had to sell it at all. wery time the python prepared to strike the plucky little pig darted at Mm, litting as only a pigcan when angry. The prihen was getting the werst of it when the pig, in charging, made an unlucky messtep. Instantly the smake's fange were sunk into the porker's neck and he gave up the fight.

Then the python undertook to swallow his victim whole, first wrapping the bedy in its coils and giving it a terrific squeezing. The snake slowly got the war's head and shoulders into its unsoupled jaws and then gradually the remainder of the poor animal followed sown the victorious python's throat.

But the victory was dearly won, as it developed, for in swallowing the pigsomething happened to the snake's mouth. The injury was later found to be a badly ulcerated tooth, which the keepers found it necessary to lance. This was accomplished after a great deal of difficulty.

A coachwhip snake, about six feet long, was killed and thrown into the python's cage. Fortunately the cannibal still retained a good appetite. In the meantime the surgical instruments. consisting of a pair of scissors, a rubber syringe and a bowl of disinfecting solution, were made ready. When the coachwhip was haif-way down the python's throat it was grasped by the tail and pulled toward the door of the cage, bringing with it the python, which held on tenaciously. By twisting the -coachwhip's body the snake was rolled over on his side and the ulcer in his mouth disclosed. The operation was necessarily...a quick one, as the python was making a vicious effort to disgorge the whipsnake and fight. When it was over he looked surprised for a moment.

LOOKED LIKE REAL HAIR. A Wig That Was Not to Be Likened to Anything in the Arti-Scial Line.

The python is now as well as ever.

and then awaillowed the coachwhip.

A certain famous actor had for known maker. He always had the same man to attend to him, and liked him so much that he finally engaged him as his dresser. One day the actor found a fine new wig on his dressing-table.

"What is this?" he inquired of his dresser. "I ordered no new wig. I meant to have done so but I have been

too busy." "I made that wig for you, sir," repiled the dresser. "Excuse me, sir, but your old one was gettin' 'orribly shabby."

The result was that the dresser made all the player's wigs afterwards, and the costumer began to worry about the loss of a good customer. He dropped into the theater one afternoon when the dresser, his erstwhile employe, was getting things in shape for the night's performance.

"Who's making Mr. ----'s wigs now?" asked the wig-maker, with a alight show of aspersion. "I am," said the dresser.

"Humph!" taking a new wig from the dressing-table, "and is this a specimen of your work?"

The young man admitted that it "And do you really think," contin-

ued the costumer, holding it at arm's length, "that this thing looks like a wig?

"No, sir, I don't!" retorted the dresser. "I think it looks like the 'air of the 'uman 'ead."

Science Aiding Agriculture. The achievements of college professors in showing an industry of modest standing but fundamental importance how to enhance its production have reached monumental results. An Iowa professor, by indusing the farmers to make a scientific selection of seed and teaching them a more careful preparation of the ground, enlarged the corn erop of that state by about 100,000,000 bushels. A Maine professor is showing how, by selection in breeding, hens can be induced to lay twice as many eggs as the ordinary fowls. Cornell professors are enlarging the old lesson on the increase of milk from cows. A Minnesota teacher has developed a handy and improved breed of wheat. A Nebraskan in the same line has outlined a plan of cultivation that will secure crops on semiarid land without irrigation -Pittsburg Dispatch.

Dodging That Paid. Elderly Belle-Now, tell me, baron, really and truly, who was the greatest beauty at our ball last night? "Ob, my dear madam, I beg you kindly to excuse me from answering " "Ah. I understand—you flatterer!"— Stray Stories

The Description, First Bachelor—Suppose you saw some beautiful scenry coming over the Rockies. What was it like? Second Ditto-It had gray eyes and brown hair; it sat just across the aisle from me.-Detroit Free Press.

*PUBLIC" IN WALL STREET.

The Strenuous Struggle in Which Many a Small Investor Is Ruined.

A continuous struggle for supremacy is ever going on in Wall street between the giants of finance, says a writer in Cent Per Cent., and in this struggle smaller interests are ignored or trampled upon with ruthless disregard of the fate of the multitudes. It is meet that little folk should leave the theater of action to the undisturbed possession of the levalthans of the street and to the professional traders who take their fate in their own hands with the indifference of trained gamblers.

Many of the active and popular stocks dealt in on the exchanges are subject to constant manipulation. They are marked up and down 10, 20, 30 and sometimes 50 points without relation to the merits of the properties upon which these securities are based. The prime object of this manipulation is to "milk" the public, thereby transferring immense sums from the pockets of the unsophisticated or unlucky players to the credit of the "insiders." The term "insiders" is the polite appellation given

to those who mark and deal the cards. Against such skilled performance outsiders have small chance. A certain percentage of them are fortunate enough to get aboard the train with the "insiders," but this is usually purely a matter of gambling luck, and where one wins hundreds lose. The great bulk of the money poured into Wall street goes either to pay the running experses of the stock exchange and the houses connected therewith or into the pockets of the manipulators. This has been the history of the street, and there are no signs to indicate the dawn of a new era when the lambs will sail the yachts and own the private cars while the professionals and manipulators foot the bills. When the happy day shall arrive we may bow greeting to the millennium.

The small investor will save his money by keeping out of Wall street. There are many avenues open to him for the safe placing of his funds without. getting into that atmosphere or attempting to sail his tiny craft on the troublous ocean of stormy speculation. Pigmies have no business taking part in a battle of giants. They are liable to be trodden ader foot and the life crushed out of

Opportunities are within the reach of every prudent and intelligent man orwoman for the safe investment of a few hundreds or a few thousand dollars, but not in Wall street. Owners of such funds have only to keep their eyes and ears open and give careful scrutiny to propositions which come before them. It is within their providence and ability to find among those presented many good things.

COUNT YOUR ACQUAINTANCE

Persons in Great City Who Can Number Friends on Their Pingers.

"While in New York this time," said the man from Alabama, according to the Herald, "I have observed one habit of certain people I met that impressed me as being very peculiar and also rather pathetic. I heard neveral persons actually count the number of people they knew in the whole town. To a man hailing from a section of the country where acquaintances are counted by the hundreds instead of the tens, that method of census taking seemed a tremendous business. With us it would be an impossible task to sit down and make a list of the people with whom we have a speaking acquaintance. Up here it is no trick at all. A cousin of mine who moved north two years ago was the first person I saw perform the stunt.

"'Would you believe,' she said, 'that although I have lived in New York all this time, there are only 102 people in town to whom I could speak if I met them in the street without taking chances of being arrested as an officious stranger?

"I laughed at her. 'How in the world, said I, 'did you happen to get. your calling list down to such a fine point?"

"'This is not my calling list,' said she. 'That consists of only six names. The 102 are just acquaintances, and include the janitor, my washerwoman and the boy named Willie down in the grocery.'

"Her admission struck me as really pitiful. 'Why don't you branch out?" E*asked.

"Branch out?" she cried, 'Oh, my dear man, if you had lived In New York for a while you wouldn't say anything about branching out. Besides I am not alone in my desolation. There are lots of other folks in this town in the same fix, only worse. They couldn't even get up to the hun-

dred mark to save their lives. "Later I found that she was right, but, although the habit of counting one's acquaintances is common enough, I still think it strange and decidedly touching."

Tired of Being Fired.

Peter was-a good workman, but he would go on sprees. His employer was lenient, but when Peter turned up after having been absent for a couple of days without leave he discharged him. But Peter did not take his discharge seriously, and went back to his work as usual. Again he went on a spree, and again he was discharged and taken back. These little escapades had been repeated four or five times within a couple years, when Peter walked into the shop one morning looking much the worse for his celebration. "See here," said the employer, "you are discharged." "Look here," said Peter, "I am tired of this. If I am fired again I'll quit the job." And he went about his work and has not been "fired" since.—Philadelphia Record.

GEHAZI ANCIENT "GRAFTER."

Story of the Bible That Has an Application in the Present Century.

The Bible lesson studies in the Sunday schools of the world one Sunday recently was the story of the healing of Nasman, the leper. Incidentally it leads up to a brief, but pointed, story of graft which has a very modern application, says the Chicago Daily

Naaman, who was the commander of the armies of Syria, was afflicted with the leprosy. A little Hebrew maid, a slave in his household, told of the wonderful power of Elisha, the prophet of the Lord in Israel, and suggested that Naaman go to Elisha for healing. Naaman did so, and was healed. Being a man of great wealth, and, as he was naturally delighted over his recovery, he offered Elisha a great sum of money and other costly gifts. which, of course, Elisha refused to accept.

Now, Elisha had a servant named Gehazi. Up to this time Gehazi, so far as the record shows, had always been an honest, trustworthy sort of man. But here a temptation to graft was presented which he did not resist. What would be the harm, he argued. in getting some of that money from Naaman for himself? Naaman was rich and wanted to pay Elisha for curing him of leprosy, but as Elisha would not accept it, what wrong was there in his taking some of the money himself, thought Gehazi. To be sure, he had no just claim on the money, but no one would be defranded by his taking it, so why shouldn't he?

And Gehazi gave way to his greed. As soon as Naaman had departed Gehazi deemed the lie necessary to work that two young men had just arrived at Elisha's house, and were needy, and he asked Naaman for gifts for them: Naaman responded by giving him double what he asked.

Of course, the story of the two needy young men was false, but Gehazi deemed the lie necessary to work his graft. The grafter will always

Upon his return Elisha asked himabout his absence. Another lie was necessary. He denied that he had been away from the house Elisha, of course, knew what he had done. He accused him of the graft and pronounced the curse of leprosy upon him, "and immediately," says the divine record, "he became as white as snow" with the loathsome disease.

How many modern Gehazis there are! How many people are ever ready to work any little graft that comes in their way. How many public servants there are who take advantage of their positions fust as did Gehazi to make money to which they are not legitimately entitled! Many of them argue the first time they do it that no one will be harmed therepy. Just as Generi did. Then it is eas to do something a little worse, a step at a time, until the public servant becomes a common boodler. It is not always that punishment comes so swiftly and with such force as it did to Gehazi, but it is almost certain to overtake the grafter in some shape eventually. The state of Kansas has its Gehazis to-day. There are men who have commanded the respect of their fellows and who have been given positions of trust, just as Gehazi was. They have seen opportunities to make money out of their positions and they have argued that it would harm ao one-overlooking the injury they might be doing to the public-and their greed has urged them on to graft. .in some instances the publicity given their acts metes out punishment to them. Others may not be punished except by their own consciences and the fear of being caught, and they may go on in their career under a penalty as great as that which was pronounced upon Gehazi overtakes them, but it is almost sure to

Punishment of Deserters.

Lieut. Gen. Chaffee, in his annual report suggests that deserters be deprived of their civil rights as a cure for the growing evil of desertions from the stmy. He can find no reasonoble cause for desertions in the treatment given to. soldiers, although he admits that the inexperience of company officers "affects the subject somewhat." The replies elicted from men in the guardhouse to the effect that "army life was not what had been anticipated," indicates that irksome subordination to superiors, who make up for their "inexperience" by a lisplay of rigid, mechanical martinetry, nay be more blamable for desertions han is conceded in the report. Of yourse, in numerous instances the fault is inherent in the man himself; and for such disqualification from voting would sot be a punishment too severe. But 'or such the penalty would not be a deerrent.—Philadelphia Record.

. Traveled Trunks. Many have looked with awe upon suit cases and steamer trunks covered with labels of every size and color, and thought enviously of the advantages the traveled owners of such baggage had over the poor stay-at-homes. The baggage proclaimed that its ownes had been from Sydney to San Francisco, from Copenhagen to Colombo, to say nothing of visiting half the capitals and health resorts of the continent. But the iconoclast has found shops where such baggage is sold, all shattered and battered and labeled: with a score of foreign towns, although it may never have traveled two miles from New York.

Indirectly. Harold-Did your charity ball realise

unything for charity? Grace-Well, rather. Old Mr. Riche sat in a draught, got pneumonia, died text day, and left a thousand pounds to an orphan asylum.—Cassell's Journal.

LAUNCHING WEIGHT OF SHIP

It Is Less Than One-Half of the Great Boat When Fully Equipped.

Considering the general excellence of the accounts given in the daily press of the launching of the Connecticut, it is surprising, says the Scientific American, that, one and ail, they should have fallen. into the error of aneaking of the battleship as weighing, when she made her initial plunge into the water, some 16,500 tons, whereas, as a matter of fact, she did not weigh within 9,500 tone of that amount. Her actual launching weight was only 6.999 tons.

The oft-quoted 16,500 tons is the displacement, or actual weight, of the ship in her completed condition, with ammunition and all kinds of stores aboard, and 900 tons of coal in her bunkers. So that in point of weight the Connecticut that swept down the ways on the 29th of September was a very different Connecticut from the one that some 18 months from now will holst her flag. completely equipped and ready to take her place, if need be, in line of battle.

Out of the water and on the ways the battleship looked larger than she ever will again, for the spectator riewed the whole mass of the vessel from keel to superstructure deck. The 26 feet of bull that from now on will be submerged beneath the water was visible and helped to give that predominant impression of bulk and weight which was so much the object of remark among the thousands who witnessed the launching .

The Connecticut, however, was not by any means so heavy as she looked, being, in fact, but the mere shell of the ship, including the double bottom, the framing, the shim plating and the various steel decks. From now on as she sits in the water she will take on weight very rapidly, that is, provided the armorplate makers deal fairly in delivery of armor plate in favor of the contractbuilt sister ship at Newport News. This provise is due to the fact that shipments of armor are finding their way to the southern shippard with much greater alacrity than they are to the yard where the government-built ship is in hand.

By the time that the armor plating has been put in place along the water line and over the central broadside batteries, upon the turrets casements and on the conning towers, some 4.900 tons of weight will have been added, bringing the total displacement of the ship up to about 11,000 tons. The other 5,500 tons will be made up of the large battery of boilers, the two main twin-screw engines, the various auxiliary engines, the thousand-and-one furnishings and fittings that enter into a ship of this size and importance, and finally the enormous amount of coal and stores that

must be carried. Long before the date of launching the Connecticut the naval constructors had made an accurate estimate of the rate at which she would gather headway in sliding down the ways, the speed at which she would enter the water and the distance which she would travel by her own momentum after she was fairly affoat. The acceleration was very rapid, much more so than the layman who witnessed the launch would suppose, for the great bulk of the vesset made her appear to be moving more slowly than she actually was. As a matter of fact, the velocity rose to about 15 knots an hour, or within three knots of the highest speed which the vessel is designed to make under full horse-

MISCHIEVOUS ELECTRICITY. Producing of Corrosion Which Renders Insecure Bridges and Other Structures.

The destruction of water pipes by electric currents that have escaped from trolley roads is occasionally reported from various parts of the country, although instances are less common to-day than five or ten years ago. There can be little doubt, moreover, that portions of steel bridges have also been injured by what is known as electrolysis. The Engineering Record has obtained from the state engineer some details of such a case in New York. The bridge in question was over the Erie canal, at Richester.

An examination of the structure showed that the floor beams had lost from 10 to 20 per cent. of their metal through ordinary corrosion. The flanges of the rails were found to have worn into the flanges of the floor beams through the impact of the passing cars, and, in some cases, the flanges of the beams had been cut through from this cause, the rail base cutting into the vertical web plates. The ends of the steel beams showed in some places an appearance of having been burned, and it was assumed that a possible explanation of this was the arcing of the current between these steel beams and the ends of the 8-by-12inch wooden stringers when the latter were wet. These stringers formerly supported the rails of the track, a but had been removed before the examination of the bridge was made, so that there was no opportunity of determining the appearance of them. The burning was not sufficient to cause any injury to the bridge, and there is no syidence of electrolysis about it at any place.

Natural Gas Heat.

-Heating equal to that of 12,000,000 tons of good bituminous coal was produced last year in the United States in natural gas. The money value was \$35,815,360. an increase of 16 per cent. over the previous year, and the volumes was estimated at 238,769,067,000 cubic feet.-Chicago Tribune.

Light-Headed. Many a train of thought carries no freight.—Chicago Daily News.

FILIPINOS LIKE NEW MONEY. Currency Formerly in Circulation in the Islands Gives Place to American Cash.

Following the recent legislation of congress providing for a currency system for the Philippine Islands, the Philippines commission passed an act to discourage the further use of the currency formerly in circulation on the islands and designed to give the gold standard full force and effect, states the New York Sun. The following cable message from the civil governor of the Philippines to the secretary of war will show the effect of this legislation:

The approach of October 1, when the first currency taxing provisions became effective, caused a large expurt of Mextoan pesos commercially, and a large imflow of Spanish-Fillpine coin in the treasury.

"In September 1,197,500 Mexican pesos were exported and 530,622 Spanish-Filipino pesos came into the treasury and were withdrawn from circulation. During September the actual circulation of the new currency increased 1,891,000 peace. In October to date 1,682,995 peace. Mexican currency have been exported commercially and 959,000 Spanish-Fil-Ipino by the insular government for recoinage. Have on hand nearly 500,000 Spanish-Pilipino pesos for recoinage. The increase of the actual circulation of the new coins for October was approximately 1,300,000 pesos.

Every bank in Manila published notices refusing the old currency on deposit after September 30. Railroads received no old currency at any price. Nearly all the accounts of banks throughout the islands have been reopened in the new currency. Banking business has called in its old notes and issued new ones based upon the new currency All new contracts are being made with the new currency.

Business throughout the archipelago is conducted now mainly on the new basis. Banks and large dealers are cooperating with the government. Little old currency is left, and existing taxing provisions will eliminate that by January I next. The gold standard is an established fact and now meets the approval of the entire public. Business conditions have much improved.

PORTO RICANS IN HAWAII. Importation of Them Does Not Meet with Favor Among the

Natives.

In an evil hour the sugar planters of Hawaii imported a number of Porto-Ricans to labor in their cane fields. The venture was an experiment, says the Chicago Record-Herald, and was tried because of the troublesome conditions of the local labor market. The planters prefer Chinese to all other help, but the Chinese are barred by our exclusion act. Japanese under contract has stopped and the native Hawaiians are indolent and unreliable. Hence the expedient of introducing Porto Ricans as substitutes who might solve the labor problem.

A very short trial was sufficient, however, to convince the Hawalian whites that a mistake had been made. According to their testimony the Porto Ricans are a most undesirable lot, and latterly public hatred has been aroused against them on account of the murder of a young- man named Damon by one of their number. Damon belonged to one of the prominent old white families of the islands and was so widely known that the crime cast a gloom over the whole community. This was the more natural because it was unprovoked. Damon had merely cautioned the Porto Rican against removing a danger lamp from the road when he was set upon and

It is said now that the Porto Ricans are generally shunned and that no one will give them work. "This lack of employment is driving even industrious men to crime and women to shame." Manifestly the planters who were responsible for bringing these people to Hawaii should feel the responsibility for their presence and endeavor by some means to secure their return to Porto

Adaptability of Filipinos. An interesting proof of the ability of he Filipinos to adapt themselves to vocations requiring intelligence, endurtace, obedience and resourcefulness appears in the work of the Filipino members of the crew of the cable ship Burnside, engaged for the last year in constructing the Alaskan cable system. The work was extremely arduous and exposed the men to severe hardship, but Col. James Allen, of the signal crps of the army, who had general charge of the construction, in an official reports twards hearty praise to "the entire Filipino crew and cable men for activity, willingness, alertness and reliability The previously expressed good opinion of the services of the Filipinos as crew and cable men has been strengthened by late experiences."—Army and Navy

Ghoulish Gifts.

Among the Iloongotes, a tribe of savages in the interior of Luzon, A. Henry Savage Landor writes, "the wedding present given by the prospective groom to his sweetheart does not lack obsintness and consists of a human head, part of a breast and heart as well as a finger or two. Unless a man can produce these gifts he has to remain a bachelor, but these gifts are invariably produced. The "inclined to wed' lies in wait in the high grass until an unsuspecting man, woman or child happens to pass that way.—Chicago Dally News.

Teachers in Philippines. On account of lack of funds, due to a decrease in the appropriation for education, about 200 teachers will be dropped from the teaching staff in the Philippine HOUSES IN ONE SOLID PIECE Sevel Plan of Constructing Them of Concrete Is Tried in New York City.

A movel plan of house building has made its appearance in some of the suburbs, save the New York World. The usual way has been to build a house out of stone, brick or wood, inpieces which are mortared or nailed and can be sectionally taken apart. Under the new plan a house is all one piece and after a few years' exposure the walls are like solid rock. The material used in concrete.

Every one has seen the way in which the workmen on the subway mixed their concrete to make the lining and filling for the tunnel. In the new method of building house walls the concrete is mixed in much like manner and poured into a mold. Beginning with the foundation the moldis raised foot by foot as the concrete is poured in and hardens, until, when the roof is reached; the whole wall is a solid mass. Holes are left for the doors and windows during the con-

etruction. This system is cheaper than stone or brick and at the present price of lumber and shingles, than wood, unless the wooden house is filmaily sonstructed. Its advantage is also in permanency in painting and repairs.

The concrete of which the walls are built is more cheaply mixed than the concrete used for subway work, where there has to be a constant jar and more tensile strength required. The proportions on subway work and sand. On house work one part of cement to seven or eight parts of gravel or crushed stone insures a strong wall, if properly made and set, and if a coating of best quality Portland ce-

mentels washed over the outside. Where gravel, small stones and sand are readily accessible and cheap-Ir to be had, as they are in almost. all of New York's suburbs, the main expense of a concrete house is for the cement. This can be lessened by using the cheaper grades of Rosendale cement for the main walls and using the more expensive Portland coment only as a wash.

If plenty of suitable stones have soon found in disting the cellar there may be used for the loundation, or the concrete construction may begin from the foundation trench and continue solidly to the roof.

The moids are either wood or metal. with a hollow core. The object of the core is to save material without loss of strength and to provide for an air circulation within the wall. Hollow concrete walls are cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter than a solid stone or brick wall.

Walls made in this manner may be tinted any color both inside and out by coloring the Portland cement wash. The color then cannot wear off, as it is part of the wall. Floor beams are set in the concrete as in a brick or stone wall now. Windows doors and frames are inserted as now.

Several of these concrete houses have been ornamented to a novel way by sculptor friends of the owners. The material is almost as soft as clay when first put up. It can readily be modeled into faces, figures, scroll work or any kind of designs. Skillfully done this concrete modeling gives the effect of stone carving at, a small fraction of the expense

AUTHOR OF STANDARD TIME Devisor of the System Was Prof. Charles F. Dowd, Recently

Deceased. Few young persons of 35 or more who can remember the annoyance of gaining four minutes by changing to "Philadelphia time" at every crossing of the Hudson and of losing 12 minutes when journeying eastward into Boston time," says the New York World, knew to whom they mainly owed their deliverance until the death recently of Prof. Charles F. Dowd, of Saratoga, the author of the "standard

lime system. Dr. Dowd was a teacher. He made no fortune by his great service, but remained one of humanity's unknown benefactors. Before his work there were hundreds of time standards. Scarcely two railroads used the same. Now there are four-eastern, central, mountain and Pacific-and as each is just an hour from the next a traveler can reckon time anywhere, even with-

out resetting his watch. The earth's circumference of 360 degrees is divided into 24 time belts of 15 degrees each, corresponding to the hours. These are disregarded at sea, But in Europe standard time is generally used except in France, which for some purposes still clings to "Paris time." Only Italy has gone so far as to print the afternoon hours. upon its railway time tables as "I3 o'clock" and so on up to "24" oclock" at midnight.

London's Amusements. Londoners are singularly well catered for in the matter of recreation. They have 53 theaters and 43 music halls. The attention which has been paid to outdoor recreation for Londoners during the last few years is testified by the following facts: In 1890 there were 40 open spaces available for recreation. They comprised an extent of 2,656 acres, and were maintained at a cost of £52,-877. In 1903 the sum expended on the same purpose was £116.772. The number of places had increased to 103, their

acreage to 4,879.—Smith's Weekly, Insurance in Russia.

The poor activity of the insurance business in Russia is shown by the fact that in the entire empire there are only 28.810 companies, while the amount of insurance taken out is only \$39,321,491.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

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