

GERMANS EXCEL IN BOOKS

Then Exhibit at the World's Fair Remarkably Creditable—Most Interesting Ever Shown.

The exhibit of books at the St. Louis fair is one of the most interesting ever shown in America. Of the foreign nations participating, Germany easily takes the lead, followed by Great Britain and France as close seconds.

FIND FANCIES IN SUICIDE.

Indiana Woman Sends Check for Burial—Another Wants Hair Plucked—Man Plays Dirge.

Whether or not there is an increasing determination on the part of the people to live right, there seems to be an increasing determination to die in the most becoming manner, says the Washington Star.

NATIONS THAT LEND MONEY

France, England and Belgium Have Immense Sums Outstanding—Authorities Differ as to British.

A German authority estimates the foreign investments of his own country having 2,000,000 inhabitants and about one-quarter as large an area as Ohio, at no less than \$1,500,000,000.

TRAIN VERSUS LIGHTNING.

Flyer Beat at Every Stroke and Arrived at Its Destination Ahead of Time.

Returning from Chicago a few nights ago, a Kansas City Star was on a fast train when it ran through a big storm. It was going so fast that it was always at the next mile post.

TEMPTATION TO INVENTOR

Artificial Diamonds Are Occupying the Attention of Many French Investigators.

The reward of the inventor who can produce artificial diamonds is so tempting that the Moisson experiments with the electric furnace, which were inaugurated some eight or ten years ago, have been continued until the present day.

FIXING HIGH NOON AT SEA

Wireless Telegraphy—Expected Soon to Overcome Difficulty of Many Years' Standing.

The most important improvement in navigation since the invention of the chronometer, more than 140 years ago, has just been foreshadowed in a modest paragraph in the report of the chief of the bureau of equipment of the United States navy.

OLD GAME OF TIT FOR TAT

Tourist Gave Bad Money to Conductor Who Wouldn't Stop to Let a Woman Off.

The conductor was talking to the motor-man, both looking ahead, as the car bowed merrily on. A woman standing in the rear seats motioned in vain for a stop, relates the New York Press.

GIRLS ARE QUICK KISSERS.

Princeton, Illinois, Damsels Have Become Adept in Art of Speedy Osculation.

Princeton, the capital of Bureau county, Ill., has an odd distinction. Its girls can bestow a kiss quicker than any other set of pretty young creatures in the state.

INDIANA WATERS MAGNETIC

Springs in the Hoosier State Are Said to Cause Deviation of the Compass.

A reputable scientific publication is sponsor for the statement that there exists in at least three places in the state of Indiana springs or wells whose waters possess marked magnetism and are able to impart it to steel objects dipped therein.

JAPS INVENT POSTAL IDEA.

Mikado's Soldiers Are Furnished with Already-Printed Cards Telling of Welfare.

The Japanese government has found a novel and excellent use for postal cards, says the Christian Endeavor World. Realizing that, for various reasons, the soldiers on campaign may not have leisure or opportunity to write home to his family, the military authorities have supplied to each army a sufficient number of post cards, ready printed, to which the soldier has only to affix his name—or, more exactly, his seal, each Japanese soldier, carrying one with him, as part of his outfit.

OLDEST HOTEL IN EUROPE.

Goethe, Schiller and Bismarck, as Well as Royalty, Its Guests—Give a Testimonial.

The Goldenes Kreuz (Golden Cross) at Regensburg (Ratisbon), in Bavaria, is the oldest hotel in Europe. King Ferdinand I halted at it on his way to his coronation in 1551 and no other hotel in Europe possesses records of such great antiquity as the Golden Cross at Ratisbon does or can boast of having had so many royal visitors as have enjoyed its hospitality.

ILLNESS RULED BY INCHES.

London Physician Declares That One's Stature Has a Great Effect Upon Health.

Among the most interesting of the papers read at a recent meeting of the British association at Cambridge was that of Dr. Shrubsole on the physical characters of hospital patients. Sufferers from tonsillitis, rheumatism and heart disease, he said, are of a higher stature and suffer from tuberculous, nervous and malignant diseases of a lower stature than healthy individuals.

TOO FOND OF OPERATIONS

Surgeons of the World Criticized by a New Zealand Brother Because of Love of Art.

A New Zealand surgeon has started a discussion of modern operative methods in surgery which has awakened great wrath in the bosoms of specialists. They resent bitterly this surgeon's suggestion, offered with true fraternal courtesy, that operations, such as that for appendicitis, are often performed just to be a-doing. For instance attention is called to the removal of the appendix every time when an abdominal operation makes it easily accessible.

WOULD REFORM PRIZE RING

Abbreviated Apparel of Fistic Artists Grates on Nerves of Some—Vanity One Reason.

Dress reform has struck the 'prize ring with a vengeance. It first began in England and bids fair to find encouragement here. The costume of a pugilist heretofore has never been the source of much concern as long as the fighter was capable of putting up a good bout. In former days boxers wore knee trunks and sleeveless shirts. Then ordinary trunks were used, and finally the shirt was discarded altogether. It was loathed as superfluous. However, many pugilists are vain, and more than anything else like to display their manly forms to an admiring crowd. With the shirt discarded the fighter may fold his arms, throw out his chest and pose. But he takes more pains now to show his legs than his torso. Consequently trunks and tights have shown a shrinkage. If ring apparel is too decollete, suggests the New York Sun, the fact may be laid to the door of the fight promoters. Wrestlers are more decorously dressed when they go on the mat. Their legs are not bare. There is no reason why a fighter's under pinnings should not be covered.

DOZEN MESSAGES AT ONCE

Remarkable New Multiplex Regulated by Use of Tuning Fork—High School Professor Its Inventor.

The invention of new methods for sending a number of messages simultaneously over the same wire continues, and one of the most recent of these is due to Prof. Mercedier, of the French high school for post and telegraph. In this method an alternating current is employed whose frequency depends upon a tuning fork having a certain definite number of vibrations. The current of such an interrupted circuit can be broken by an ordinary key, and signals transmitted over the line wire by an induction transmitter. On the line at the distant station are a number of so-called monotelephones, which respond to current of one frequency, and are tuned to the forks in the circuits at the sending station. Thus each particular circuit has its own telephone, which is connected by tubes with the ears of the receiving operator and responds to the signals made at the sending station. In all 12 transmission circuits are provided, so that 12 messages may be sent over the line simultaneously.

STYLE VS. TELEGRAPH.

Fashionable Toilet of African Belles Consists of Wire Worn in Place of Girdle.

Fashions in women's dress have played havoc with the plans of a telegraph company in east Africa, and with its lines as well, says one of the commissioners in his report. The dusky belles have found that nothing more enhances their charms than a few yards of telegraph wire wound about their waists as a girdle. In spite of the slight inconvenience of sleeping in it, it has become almost as necessary to them as a necklace or a bow to an English girl. So serious were the deprivations made on the jungle telegraph lines by these seekers after fashionable toilets that the company had at last to hold the chiefs of the various tribes responsible. Then the young women made a change in style.

LOS ANGELES PLANS FOREST

Three Thousand Acres of Brush in California City to Be Made Into Woods.

Los Angeles, Cal., has 3,000 acres of brush land called Griffith park, which it intends to convert into a commercial forest. This will be the first instance of a city in the United States creating a forest. The practice is quite common in Europe, where the forest parks have not only contributed to the pleasure of the people, but have been more than self-supporting through their timber output. Under its cooperative effort the bureau of forestry had last summer at Los Angeles four of its experts making a comprehensive plan for the forest. This plan was completed at the end of September. The idea is to convert a waste piece of land into a productive forest, which will not only pay for its creation and care through the sale of mature timber, but will provide a constant source of pleasure and recreation for the citizens of Los Angeles. It is an entirely practical plan, and Los Angeles deserves credit for its progressive spirit. Other cities could very profitably follow this excellent example.

VALUE OF THE NORTH STAR

Only One in the Firmament Whose Position Never Changes—Facts About It.

The pole star is really the most important of the stars in the sky. It marks the north at all times; it alone is fixed in the heavens; all the other stars seem to swing around it once in 24 hours. But the pole star of Earth is not a very bright one and it would be hard to identify but for the help of the so-called pointers in the "Big Dipper" or "Great Bear." The outer rim of the dipper points nearly to Polaris, at a distance equal to three times the space that separates the two stars of the dipper's outer side. Various Indians call the pole star the "home star" and the star that never moves and the dipper they call the "broken back." The Great Bear is also to be remembered as the pointers for another reason. It is the hour hand of the woodman's clock. It goes once around the north star in about 24 hours, the reverse way of the hands of a watch; that is, it goes the same way as the sun and for the same reason—that it is the earth that is going and leaving them behind.

MANY USES FOR JAP FANS.

Their Motion Indicates Thoughts and They Take Place of Several Kitchen Necessities.

There are many curious uses for fans in Japan. The umpire at wrestling and fencing matches uses a heavy one, shaped like a huge butterfly, the handle being the body, and rendered imposing by heavy cords of silk. The various motions of the fan constitute a language which the wrestlers fully understand and appreciate. One notable variety of fan is made of waterproof paper, which can be dipped in water and create great coolness by evaporation, without wetting the clothes. The flat fan made of rough paper is often used as a screen window, to blow the charcoal fires, and as a dust pan. The Japanese gentleman of the old school, who never wears a hat, goes his fan to shade his eyes from the sun. His hand, bare from the shirt, hardly needs a shade, and, when it does, he spreads it under his arm, and with his fan he fans his servants, and all saves taking.

RUBBER SHOES YEARS PAST

Shoe Clerk Tells of Days When This Class of Footwear Was in Vogue.

Andrew Jackson Banta, for 51 years a shoe clerk in a store in Rochester, N. Y., in commenting the other day on rubber prices, recalled the interesting fact in the Shoe Retailer, that when he first began life as a shoe clerk the rubbers worn were of pure gum, and the soles were a half inch thick. "I can remember that they looked just like blocks of wood," said Mr. Banta. "They came stuffed with hay or sawgrass. This we had to pull out and insert a last instead. After being placed on the last we would varnish them and place them on the shelves for sale. One day a man came into the store and put his feet upon the fender of the stove. The fire was hot and after a while he began to smell something burning. Taking his feet from the stove he found that the rubber had melted and that about a quart of pure gum had formed a pool under the stove. Just think of all the rubber one quart of pure gum would supply nowadays."

BIG PROFIT OF LOAN SHARK

Rudolph Spreckels, Sugar King, Tells of Big Sum Asked For in One Case.

"Talking about Rudolph Spreckels the other day," a San Francisco man said, "he told me many interesting things about finance. He cited a number of examples of the incredible profit in usury. The practice of usury, however, he heartily condemned. He told of a young man who had answered a usurer's advertisement to lead money without any other security than the borrower's salary. The young man arranged the details for a loan of \$500. It took a week or more to settle these details and then the young man called for his money. "We are ready for you, sir, at last," the usurer said, politely. "You want \$500. Here it is. We charge you five per cent a month, and you want the money for a year. Thus there is just this \$200 coming to you. "If I wanted it for two years," said the young man, "there'd be something coming to you, wouldn't there?" "He needed the loan, but he was man enough, nevertheless, to spurn these terms and depart."

Many Danes Change Names.

The Danish government has found it necessary to grant greater privileges to the heads of families in changing their names if they feel so disposed. This seems on the face of it, a very unnecessary piece of legislation, but it is not so to the Danes. It appears that the entire population is divided into three great clans, the Hansens, the Petersens and the Sorensens. Besides any one of these the familiar Smiths and Joneses of our country would be a ridiculous minority. An example of what the Danish postman has to contend against may be noted that in one town of 25,000 inhabitants there are only some 20 surnames to go around, each of which is therefore the name borne by more than 1,250 people.

TENT POLE HIS WEAK POINT

Circus Manager Helpless When Canvas Supports Are Attached for Non-Payment of Bills.

The circus manager was talking over the experiences of his less prosperous days when attachments on the show were frequent, relates the New York Sun. "The man who wants to get damages against or collect a bill from a circus should pass by the animals, which seem of such value to the show, and get his eye on the tent poles," he said. "If he attaches a mighty lion or a big elephant the manager will not make a big allowance in order to regain possession. But just attach the tent poles and the manager will helplessly throw up his hands. They are the most indispensable part of a circus outfit, fitted up as they are with trapeze attachments, gearing and other things. The circus simply cannot get along without its poles, and a circus manager will settle at once rather than have an attachment put on them."

PREACHER IS TOO CORDIAL

Unintentionally Ignorant Immigrant Girl Plays Joke on Him Before Congregation.

A shock was received by a Danish pastor after the services the other evening. He makes a point to welcome any strangers cordially and that evening, after the completion of the service, he hurried down the aisle to station himself at the door. A Swedish girl, one of the strangers in the congregation, she is employed as a domestic in one of the fashionable East end homes, and the minister, noting that she was a stranger, stretched out his hand. He welcomed her to the church and expressed the hope that she would be a regular attendant. Finally he said that if she would be at home some evening during the week he would call. "Thank you," she murmured bashfully, "but you have a 'tella.' Three of the members of the congregation heard the conversation and in spite of the fact that their pastor swore them to secrecy one of them 'leaked.'"

Death Rates in States.

The only states which had a registration of deaths sufficiently complete to make the death rates worth calculating in 1900 were Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island, which, with the District of Columbia, form the group referred to in the census report as the "registration" states.

Bogus War Trophies.

The people of Crewe, England, are indignant at the war office because of some guns which were recently bought by the town and set up in a park as war trophies. It has been found that the guns have never been outside of England.

Women Blacksmiths Outnumber Men.

In the district about Critley, England, 30 women work as blacksmiths to every man following the trade. For many generations this work has been almost entirely in feminine hands.