

THE MAKING OF SWORDS.

Rare Business Which Suffers with the Rise of Modern Civilization.

"I turn out," said a swordmaker, "over 40,000 swords a year. I used to turn out 70,000. But the sword crop falls as civilization rises."

"My steel comes from western Pennsylvania in 14-foot lengths, each length an inch and a half wide. Each sword takes nine days to make, and goes through 70 different processes."

"Our testing room is our most important one. There the finished blade is proved—first as to surface; second, as to back and edge; third, as to bending."

"For the surface test the blade is screwed into a vise, and brought down flat with great force on to a steel table, a wire cage covering all to prevent accident. If the sword falls, from flying splinters. In the second test the back and edge are struck by a skilled swordman against an oak block. In the third test, the sword must bend into an arc of a certain number of degrees, according to its fineness. The best swords must bend into a perfect circle."

"The best swords, further, are put through the Spanish or Toledo test. They are thrust against plates of solid iron."

"Good swords cost from \$15 up, and of course presentation blades run into a lot of money. The last we made cost \$500. The pattern of the blade was especially designed and inscribed, and the scabbard was of fishskin, mounted with 22-carat gold. The handle was of gold and ivory."

The czar of Russia, the sultan of Turkey, and the shah of Persia all have swords ranging in value from \$5,000 to \$50,000, but even these are outdone by the massive scimitars worn by many native Indian princes, who simply utilize the golden hilts of their swords as settings for whole fortunes of precious stones. The Maharaj Kunwar of Baroda has a carved sword whose scabbard and hilt are encrusted with diamonds, rubies and emeralds of the first water, the whole being valued at \$100,000.

"Actors are good patrons of the swordmaker. Sir Henry Irving had a fine collection of swords, while Francis Wilson's and Richard Mansfield's collections are not to be despised."

PANDEMONIUM PRODUCED.

Comical Spectacle on Mississippi Steamboat Resulting from Coin Shower.

A young fellow, a fellow passenger, was leaning upon the rail beside me, looking upon the scene below, relates a writer in Harper's Magazine. He told me to watch and he would show me some sport. He drew a dime out of his pocket. He waved his arm to attract the attention of the negroes down upon the lower deck, and then he flung the coin. It fell tinkling, and rilled between two cotton bales. With yells, the negroes rushed at it tumultuously, piling over one another, a tangled mass of waving arms and legs, whence issued muffled groans and grunts. Then suddenly, the mass dissolved again into a mob of roustabouts, rapping up to us with rolling yellow eyes and heaving chests and dilated nostrils. Another piece of silver twinkled in the air and fell among them. Leaping and grabbing, the negroes snatched at the falling coin, then plunged again into a heap.

"By this time others of the passengers had heard the noise and the scuffling, and soon quite a crowd was gathered along the rail. A shower of change began to fall upon the deck below and into the crowd of now half frantic blacks."

It was a comical spectacle. A little while before the negroes had been quietly busy about their own affairs; a handful of cheap silver had fallen among them, and in less than a minute their small world was transformed into a pandemonium. I have heard it said that the same phenomenon occurs sometimes on the stock exchange.

An Editorial Mistake.

Mr. Russell Sage was making a careful survey of the display of marked-down clothing in a ready-made shop not far from Wall street.

"Ah! how d'you do, Uncle Russ?" we greeted him in our most affable manner, "are you selecting something neat but not gaudy for personal use?"

"Is it any of your darned business?" he replied, in very direct fashion.

Realizing that we were not engaged in selling clothing, we were so struck by the appropriateness of his inquiry that we hurried along without responding.—N. Y. Herald.

Chrysanthemums in Japan.

In the arrangement of chrysanthemums the Japanese guard against seven faults. Their stems must not be of the same length, a single flower must not turn its back or present its full face, the flowers must not be hidden by leaves, or, should they be arranged in the way of steps, a full blown flower should never be placed at the base of the composition and one odd one must not be allowed to fall between two others alike in color. Three flowers should not appear to form a triangle.

His Only Hope.

"Why don't you let up on me?" complained the bad man of the village. "This is the seventeenth time this year you've had me arrested and fined for sellin' whisky without a license. If you do it again I'll move out of the darned old town."

"If you do," gasped the village attorney, "I'll have to move, too!"—Chicago Tribune.

FIRST TOLD ABOUT GOD.

Mexican Villagers of Pure Indian Stock Hear a Missionary Preach.

A village in Mexico of 1,000 souls, not one of whom had heard of a God—such is the story told by Rev. S. G. Inman, a minister of the Christian church at Monterey, says the Mexican Herald. Nestling in a deep valley 25 miles from Saultillo and shut off from the rest of the world by high and impassable cliffs, the pure Indians have lived for generations still worshipping their stone and wooden images and utterly unlearned in everything pertaining to a Supreme Being, according to Mr. Inman, who has written to friends in the City of Mexico concerning his strange find. Santo Domingo is what the town is called, though why and wherefore none of the elders of that village could tell. It had been called that for generations, and more and they did not know the significance of the words.

It was by accident that Mr. Inman stumbled on this quaint and curious village, hemmed in by precipitous crags. He was riding overland toward Saultillo when he came to a deep cut in the mountains which he followed and which led to the town of Santo Domingo. White men had been there before and the sight of the missionary was no novelty to the pure Indian descendants that thronged around his horse and offered their hospitality—poor, but the best they had.

After partaking of it and ascertaining through the guide who accompanied him that the Indians knew nothing of a God or a creator of all things, the minister deemed it best to hold some sort of meeting and give spiritual instruction. This could not be accomplished at the first trip and Mr. Inman returned to Monterey, where arrangements are now being made to hold regular meetings there and instill some Christianity into the descendants of the aborigines. A native speaker will lecture in their own tongue, which is pure Indian without admixture of Spanish words, and it is thought that they will soon be familiar with the religion of Christianity as expounded by the ministers of the Christian church.

THE OBLIGING MOTORMAN.

Halts, Apparently, to Let a Man Take a Picture—Real Reason for Stopping.

The amateur photographer, standing alongside a trolley car track and trying to get a picture of an interesting object on the opposite side of the street, found his view constantly cut off by passing wagons and cars, whose drivers and motormen seemed to regard their business as of greater importance than his and kept right along without any regard to him.

So the amateur was surprised and pleased when finally one motorman did hold up his car apparently solely from a friendly desire to oblige the photographer. He was a pleasant looking motorman, as he stood there on his halted car with one hand on the controller and the other on the brake, and he even smiled at the amateur in a friendly way, as much as to say: "Go ahead and get your old picture. I'll hold her for a minute."

The photographer smiled back pleasantly and appreciatively at the motorman, and then turned again to the object he was trying to get a picture of. But he couldn't get it just as he wanted it. Just at that minute, and it seemed a sin to hold up the motorman any more, and so he turned to him again and said smilingly:

"Don't wait for me any more. Go ahead!"

"I can't," said the motorman, with a larger smile now rippling over his countenance. "I haven't got any power."

This answer, with the smile that accompanied it, might have jolted some amateurs a little, but it didn't worry this one much. He smiled back when he heard it, as broadly as the motorman; and the two men were still smiling at each other thus when, a moment later, the motorman got his power again and went shooting past like the rest.

Best Sulphur from Japan.

Look in Japan for good sulphur. The yield of sulphur from Japanese ore is probably the highest in the world. It reaches 50 per cent. in the north, where ore of less than 38 per cent. is rejected. In Sicily 20 per cent. ore is considered workable. Japan's output has grown from 10,000 tons in 1900 to about 26,000 tons in 1904, and is likely to grow still further. Domestic consumption takes only a quarter of the output, the consuming industries being the manufacture of matches, for which there are numerous plants, of explosives, and of chemicals. Exports amount to 14,000 or 15,000 tons per year, the western coast of the United States and Australia being the largest consumers. The process of extraction is still primitive, and in northern Japan snow interrupts activities for five months every year.

Fixing the Date.

An old minister in Weston, Mass., tells how implicitly the people of a generation ago trusted the weather predictions of the Farmer's almanac. One of his flock had died and the pastor was consoling the widow. The subject of the funeral came up, and he asked when it was to be. "Wait, doctor," said she, "we must have it on a pleasant day." She hurriedly searched the almanac, and the day was set.

Inconstant.

"Tom doesn't love me." "How do you know?" "His last letter." "Really?" "Oh, yes."—Cleveland Blade.

NEW SYSTEM OF NOTATION

Extra Convenience in Calculation Is Offered by English Educators.

Duodecimals instead of decimals are offered from England. A notation founded on 12 instead of ten is believed to have been in use by the Chaldeans, and since 12 is divisible by two, four and six, this is manifestly superior to ten, which is divisible only by five. It would be necessary to forego the use of the Arabic system of numerals and have 11 new ones and zero before the undoubted advantages of the duodecimal system could be realized in practice. It is argued that there is no necessity of displacing the old notation but merely to teach every child the new system also. The extra convenience in calculation would soon leave the Arabic figures stranded as historical curiosities. It is inconceivable once a man acquires the habit of reckoning by twelves that he should ever voluntarily return to tens. It is suggested that a beginning be made with scientific and technical students, a picked class of intelligent minds which would readily understand the value of a duodecimal notation and not grudge the small amount of trouble necessary for memorizing.

ITALY GUARDS TREASURES.

Works of Art Are Jealously Kept Within the Country's Boundaries.

Italy desires the keeping of its art treasures within its own boundaries and sometimes with rather odd results. The other day a farmer, finding his finances low, yielded to the solicitation of an art dealer and sold him the removable masonry of two ancient windows belonging to the fragment of an ancient abbey, now an out-house, in his grounds. The government commissioner, hearing of the transaction, visited the farm and officially prohibited the removal of the windows. The farmer was in despair; he had received his 500 francs and, like the Irishman, had squandered his fortune in paying his debts. The commissioner used comfortable words: "You have sold the windows and he has paid you money which you have prudently spent. Be content." But the buyer was not equally contented. He sought out the commissioner, who blandly congratulated him on having become the owner of the windows, which, however, he could not remove. Shylock's pound of flesh mildly repeats itself in a ton of masonry.

EQUAL TO THE OCCASION.

Debutante Who Was Prepared for the Advances of Moneyless Men.

It was the sweet scene of the lilies in the conservatory, the beauty of the young girl's gilt hair, or the excellent champagne he had taken with his supper—at any rate, after the two-step, as they rested in the shadow beneath a palm, he proposed to the debutante in white.

"It cannot be," she said. "I am unworthy of you."

"Oh, rubbish," said he.

"It is true; it is too true." And she sighed.

"You are an angel," he said, ardently.

"No, no, you are wrong," said the young girl. "I am vain, idle, silly, utterly unfit to be your helpmate through life."

He laughed lightly. He said in a soothing voice:

"Why, this is sheer madness. What sort of a wife do you think I ought to have?"

"A very wise, deliberate, practical woman," she replied; "one able to live on your small salary."

ARCHDUKE NOW A CITIZEN.

Leopold of Austria Marries Beneath Him and Is Doing Menial Work.

According to Le Petit Parisien, the ex-Archduke Leopold of Austria, who married Frautien Adamovitch and became naturalized as a Swiss citizen under the name of Leopold Wolking, is now serving as a common soldier in a Swiss regiment of Geneva in accordance with the law which requires military service from all citizens of the confederation. The ex-archduke, we are told, has to perform all the duties of his new position, helping to scrub the floors of the barracks and to sweep the yard, besides participating in several hours' drill each day. Through a practical joke played upon him by some comrades he lately incurred the punishment of four days' arrest, but it was not carried into effect, as suitable explanations were forthcoming. Curiously enough, this new Swiss recruit formerly held the rank of major general in the Austrian army.

Ships Built in 1904.

According to Lloyds the United Kingdom launched 712 new ships, aggregating 1,205,162 tons displacement, during last year. She also launched 37 ships of war, aggregating 127,175 tons. One, the Coronis, displaced 20,000 tons; another, the Victoria, 14,000 tons, is the largest turbine ship afloat. The United States launched 227 merchant ships of more than 100 tons each, with a total tonnage of 238,518. Besides these there were launched 19 war vessels, aggregating 170,855 tons. Germany came third, with 149 merchant vessels, aggregating 200,000 tons, and 11 ships of war, aggregating 4470 tons. France was fourth, with 300 tons in 67 merchantmen, and 43,000 tons in nine ships of war. Italy was fifth—eight merchant vessels, aggregating 30,000 tons, and eight warships, 23,652 tons.

TOLD OF PROMPTERS.

One Who Warned Against the Villain and One Who Was a Hunter.

The ex-prompter of the Comedie Francaise had committed suicide. The poor man had been an inmate of Sainte Anne's lunatic asylum for some time. At half-past eight o'clock each evening he fancied he heard the three traditional knocks which, in a French theater, herald the going up of the curtain. He would become very excited and declare that the company was waiting for him: "What will M. Mounet-Sully say?" he would exclaim.

Stories are told of other prompters. There was one good man in a suburban theater whose own private troubles were revived every time the innocent heroine was carried off by the villain of the piece. "Ah, the scoundrel!" he would shout from his box. "Can they not see what he is doing?" He would give audible warnings to the husband to keep his wife clear from all intrigues against her fidelity. These remarks "hors texte" were a little embarrassing to the actors and actresses upon the stage, who were never quite certain which belonged to the book and which was the invention of the "souffleur."

Another member of this humble profession was a great Nimrod. His days were spent in shooting. On many occasions he arrived at the theater with his bag of partridges and ground game. In an evil moment he brought also his retriever. The animal crouched quietly enough at his feet in the little box below the stage, until he was agitated by the behavior of the hero and commenced to bark furiously. It was pointed out to the dog owner that he was paid to prompt and not to bark, and the animal came no more to the theater.

SWELL SUSPENDER BUCKLES

Jewel-Mounted "Braces" for Which Extremely High Prices Are Paid.

For men who, in the way of braces, like something rather more elaborate than galleuses of homespun, such as lately were presented to Speaker Cannon, there are provided gold-mounted suspenders, and these can be had in a variety of styles and mountings.

The web of the gold mounted suspenders is, of course, of silk, and for the most part of white silk, but they can be had in any color desired.

Some of the gold mountings are extremely simple. The gold buckles and end pieces on some of the smooth narrow hard finished webs, for instance, are as plain as the white metal fittings on a pair of suspenders that would cost 50 cents.

Others have buckles that are somewhat larger and more ornamental in shape, and either embossed or engraved with a pattern. Some of these are set with small sapphires and some with diamonds.

These gold suspender buckles are made of 14 karat gold, so that they will withstand wear, for it is not the custom of men who wear suspenders of this sort, when the webs wear out, to toss them into the scrap basket. When the webs wear out the wearer takes the suspenders back to the jeweler and has the good buckles mounted on new silk webs.

Gold mounted suspenders can be found in stock at prices ranging from \$30 to \$120 a pair. Those perfectly plain, simple suspenders, with the simple plain gold buckles, cost \$38. A pair of sapphires set in the buckles cost \$55, and another pair with eight small diamonds in the buckles cost \$120.

MAKING ARTIFICIAL "LIFE."

Radio-Organisms Produced by Scientific Chemical Processes.

Scientists have been recently interested in the announcement that Prof. J. Butler Burke, of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England, has succeeded in creating, by chemical reactions, certain living bodies of an extremely low form, which he calls "radio-organisms."

Prof. Burke, says the Technical World, treated a solution of gelatin with bromide of radium, and the radio-organisms resulted. A radio-organism first as "the minutest visible speck" and "it grows to two dots, then a dumb-bell shaped appearance, later more like a frog's spawn."

But is it really alive? On this point hear Prof. Burke himself:

"The continuity of structure, assimilation and growth, and then subdivision, together with the nuclear structure as shown in a few of the best specimens, suggest that they are entitled to be classed among living things, in the sense in which we use the words."

"They are, obviously, altogether outside the beaten track of living organisms. Thus the gap, apparently insuperable, between the organic and inorganic worlds, seems, however roughly, to be bridged over by the presence of these radio-organic organisms."

Where Dishonor Lies.

Reggie (instinctively)—Tell me, Muriel, do you consider that it's dishonorable in a chap to steal a kiss from a girl?

Muriel—Yes, if he is caught doing it by a third party.—N. Y. Times.

A Blam.

Miss Thin—I'm going to send Mr. Millions a picture of myself in evening dress for a Valentine.

Miss Cutting—Oh, what makes you send him a comic?—Detroit Free Press.

MILLIONAIRE TOILER

NEW JERSEY SILK WEAVER FALLS HEIR TO \$1,000,000.

Working at Eight Dollars Per Week as Foreman in Plant When Joyful News Arrives from Ireland—Plans Celebration.

New York.—The happiest silk weaver that ever wove silk is Robert Hughes, of Garfield, N. J., who has received word that he has fallen heir to \$1,000,000.

Hughes is 48 years old and has never known anything but the hardest kind of toil. He came to America from Ireland when he was a boy, and as he grew up he learned the silk weaver's trade. Day after day he toiled, with but few pleasures and no prospect, so far as he could see, of ever bettering his condition.

Like all men of his trade, he was peculiarly the slave of his business, for when work fell slack he dared not take employment at rough-and-ready jobs; for hard work never fails to make one's fingers stiff and rough, and it is absolutely necessary for silk weavers to keep their fingers soft.

By virtue of intelligence and industry Hughes was promoted to be a foreman. His pay was \$3 a week. He managed to keep his head above water and bought a little house. Day after day he went to the mill and there toiled all day long, spinning spindles for the adornment of the rich. Seemingly this was to be his fate until the end of the last chapter.

But he received a formidable looking letter written in a clerkly hand on legal paper. The writers, a firm of solicitors of Belfast, Ireland, begged to inform "Robert Hughes, Esquire, of the town of Garfield, state of New Jersey," that he was one of the three heirs of a fortune of \$500,000, equivalent to \$3,000,000.

Mr. Hughes directed in his will that his estate be divided equally among the children of his deceased brother, two of whom are living in Ireland, the third being Robert Hughes, of Garfield.

The silk weaver was dazed. His wife, a modest little woman, was dazed, too. They had both heard of bunko-letter writers, and they feared there might be some trick. So Robert took the letter to City Attorney A. D. Sullivan, of Passaic, who said that the letter seemed genuine and he would take care of Robert's interests.

Robert finished his daily stint of weaving, went home and ate a joyous supper with his wife, and then went out to make a festive evening for many worthy friends, that they might rejoice with him.

"Don't think I'm excited, now," he said, "for I am not. I am only happy to hear the good news. Do you blame me?"

"I tell you I never expected such a thing as this. I was only a boy when I left Ireland. We heard very little from the relatives at home, though father always said Uncle John was rich. I never saw Uncle John nor heard from him until the letter came telling me I'm a rich man. Phew! No more hard work, glory to God! I've worked hard all my life and I intend to take it easy now."

"And will I go to Ireland to live?" I will not. The United States was good enough to give me a living and its going to be good enough for me to spend my money in."

BIG INCREASE IN DEATHS.

More Road Passengers and Employees Are Killed in 1905 Than in Previous Year.

Springfield, Ill.—During 1905 there was a great increase in casualties to passengers carried by the railroads of Illinois, according to the annual report of the state board of railroad and warehouse commissioners.

During 1905 86 passengers were killed on Illinois railroads, an increase of 41 over 1904, while 297 employees were killed. Seven hundred and seven passengers were injured, as compared with 745 in 1904, and 3,276 employees were injured. The total mileage of steam railroads in the state is 11,365 miles, not including 415 miles of industrial tracks. Increase in main lines during 1905 is 107 miles.

A rule adopted by the commission some time ago to prevent interurban tracks from crossing steam roads at grade is given in the report, and the board says that many applications for grade crossings have been refused. The board advocates a block system on all railroads. The number of persons employed on Illinois railroads in 1905 was 115,447, an increase of 9,617 over 1904.

The commission appeals for closing frogs for the protection of trainmen. The total mileage of electric roads, both surface and elevated, is 762 miles, an increase during the year of 176 miles, and these roads carried 162,549,535 passengers.

Not Out for Such a Deal.

A car cleaner at Camden, N. Y., found a package of bills amounting to \$5,000 on the hat rack of a car while he was at his work, and at once turned it in to the lost articles department of the railroad. It is plain that this man was not out for high finance.

Russia Plans Insurance.

The Russian government is planning a system of life insurance. Russia needs nothing so much as life insurance against the arbitrary and cruel reactionary satraps who have been killing people with or without provocation.

ONE WAY TO MAKE LIVING.

Shells from the Red Sea Carved Into Crosses by Bethlehem Workers.

The chief industry of Bethlehem of Judea is that of the mother-of-pearl workers, writes Marion Harland, in Lippincott's.

The shells are brought from the Red sea, and in the hands of native artisans are polished and carved, the larger into elaborate designs; the smaller are cut up for rosaries and crosses. The work is all done by hand, and the methods are amazingly primitive to a spectator from the home of steam and electric power.

But the results are extraordinary. The largest shell we saw was carved in scenes from the birth of Christ, the Agony in the Garden, and the Crucifixion, and had the general effect of delicate frostwork. Under the magnifying glass every detail was seen to be perfect in outline and in finish. It was executed to order for a wealthy American, and was to cost \$150.

About 150 people make a living by this industry, which is 500 years old. In the shops the workmen sit upon the floor, their benches in front of them; the air is full of whitish dust, and the light, admitted by the single window and the open door, so dim that the exquisite tracery of the wrought shells is a mystery even before the visitor notes how few, simple and crude are the instruments employed.

INCREASE OF INSANITY.

Problem Which Confronts the Municipal Authorities of England's Capital.

London has 26,739 persons on its lists of lunatics. Of these 24,282 are supported by the rates. The county council is at its wits' end trying to devise accommodations for the rapidly increasing number of the city's insane.

January 1, 1904, England and Wales, with about 32,000,000 inhabitants, had 117,139 insane persons—an increase of 3,234 over 1903. The ratio of the insane to every 10,000 of the population went up from 34.14 to 34.71 in 12 months. This almost incredible and dangerous increase is far beyond the recorded increase in the kingdom's population. Indeed, the decade 1894-1904 shows that the number of the insane was as 1 to 327 in 1894 and as 1 to 288 in 1904. At this rate of increase the end of England's supremacy in many lines is in sight. Luckily, before it is too late, legislation may devise methods of meeting the matter and securing a remedy. Up to date all efforts at a successful explanation have been unavailing. The expense of fitting up quarters for these people has forced London and other places to a serious consideration and investigation of the whole problem and all points connected therewith.

HUMAN THERMOMETERS.

First Used in Edinburgh Hospitals Not More Than Forty Years Ago.

Pretty much every one has had occasion some time or other to handle, or at least see, the modern clinical thermometer used by physicians for finding the temperature of their patients' bodies. It is in its case somewhat smaller than an ordinary stylographic pen, says the New York Globe. The following description of the first clinical thermometers used in the Edinburgh hospitals 40 years ago was recently given by Sir Lander Brunton:

"The use of the clinical thermometer had just been introduced into England by the late Prof. Attkin, of Netley, and the clinical wards of the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh, being set apart specially for the instruction of university students, were provided with two of these thermometers. To the best of my knowledge they were the only two in Edinburgh, perhaps in Scotland. One was bent and the other was straight; both were between a foot and 18 inches long, and I used to walk proudly about the ward with them contained in something resembling an ordinary gun case under my arm. But each observation required ten minutes, so that the number it was possible to make during a visit was very limited."

Sky-Scrapers in London.

"The sky-scraper," says the London Express, is causing a long black shadow over London, and its native friends declare that before long the buildings of London will be as lofty as those of New York. They may be right. They have forced our hands in the matter of underground electric transit. What they have done below the earth they may be able to accomplish above it."

New National Park.

Colorado is discussing the plan to make a 1,000,000-acre national park of the White river plateau, one of the finest natural bits of country in the whole of Colorado. On the western slope of the divide, and as yet unsettled, its covers more than 3,000 square miles of snow-capped peaks and mountain valleys, whose scenery is unequalled in the entire west.

After Election.

"There's only one way to get anything nowadays, and that's to work for it," said the first citizen.

"I guess that's right," admitted the grafter, gloomily. "I wouldn't have agreed with you a few days ago, but times have changed!"—Detroit Free Press.

Spilling an Ideal.

Enthusiast—Jove! old man! What teeth! What hair! What a complexion! Her beauty grows on me.

Cynic—That's more than it does on her, my boy.—Town Topics.