

MONEY IN DEAD LETTERS.

More Than \$5,000 Found by Washington Postal Officials—Great Amount of Unclaimed Mail.

Washington.—More than \$5,000 was received at the dead-letter office of the post office department in May. Only a small percentage of this amount can be returned to the senders, for the reason that the writers give insufficient addresses. The majority of these letters are written by poor persons, including many foreigners, and are, for the most part, intended for mail-order houses, but on account of wrong addresses finally reach the dead-letter office.

The total number of pieces of unclaimed mail received during the month was \$65,668, against 667,100 in April, but notwithstanding the large increase in receipts, every piece of mail received was opened and treated, leaving no accumulation at the beginning of this month.

A new record was made in the percentage of letters returned to senders, 30 per cent, being the average for the month. It is estimated that not more than 35 per cent of the so-called "returnable" letters can in fact be returned. The number of letters returned last month was 126,018, against 115,857 in April, 1906, and 109,332 in May, 1905.

Money was found in 7,243 letters, to the amount of \$5,167.51. In May, 1906, \$4,568.03 was contained in 7,259 letters, showing a slight decrease for 1906 in the number of letters received containing money, but quite a considerable increase in the amount of money inclosed.

FLEAS KEEPING THEM BUSY

State Employees in Michigan's Capital Complain of Guinea Pigs in Building.

Lansing, Mich.—The state highway department and the state dairy and food department occupy quarters in the state block on one of the principal corners of Washington avenue. Employees of the highway department complain that the food department has caused the building to become infested with fleas which are a source of great annoyance.

The food department keeps a number of guinea pigs to which it feeds suspicious articles of food to ascertain whether they contain poison. If the food is poisonous the pigs die; if it is healthy they grow fat.

The food department's pigs are fat. The guinea pigs attract fleas and the complaint of the highway employees. They assert that the fleas climb the stairs and interrupt the state's business.

When some of the highway department clerks should be engaged in examining specifications for a stone road or writing out speeches for the highway commissioner they are to be found chasing the elusive flea. They respectfully request that the guinea pigs be abolished.

ARMY MARKSMEN GAIN.

President Expresses His Gratification Over the Remarkable Progress Among Enlisted Men.

Washington.—In a letter to Acting Secretary Oliver, President Roosevelt has expressed his gratification over the remarkable progress in marksmanship by the enlisted men of the army. Before the Spanish war the American private soldier was admittedly the best shot in the world. The addition of a large number of volunteers had the effect of greatly reducing the average, but since the reorganization following the war every effort has been made to stimulate interest in marksmanship, and the result is that to-day the average is probably higher than it was at the beginning of the war.

The figures laid before the president which elicited his approval showed that in 1903 there were in the whole army 55 expert riflemen, 349 sharpshooters and 500 marksmen, as the various grades are known technically. In the following year these had increased to 264 expert riflemen, 1,433 sharpshooters and 2,484 marksmen. Last year the record stood 596 expert riflemen, 3,371 sharpshooters and 2,436 marksmen.

BREAD AND MILK HER ELIXIR

Woman Who Made It Her Diet for Forty Years Dies at 106 with Form of a Girl.

New York.—Whether a diet of bread and milk taken almost exclusively for 40 years is responsible for the remarkable preservation from the effects of old age shown in the body of Mrs. Mary Fay who died in the city almshouse at the age of 106 years a few days ago is a question of debate among physicians.

Despite the extreme age of Mrs. Fay her body is in as perfect physical condition and as well nourished as that of a comparatively young woman according to Coroner's Physician Dr. Phillip O'Hanlon.

"I have performed 4,550 autopsies," said Dr. O'Hanlon, "but she was the best preserved person I ever saw. Were it not for the lines in her face she would not have been taken for more than 25 years of age."

"She weighed approximately 140 pounds and was a little more than five feet in height. The body was exceptionally well nourished, and the teeth in both upper and lower jaws were in perfect condition."

Cow's Stomach a Diamond Mine. Omaha, Neb.—A packing house employee found a diamond set in the gold in the stomach of a cow. The stone is valued at \$100.

RURAL MAIL BOXES

ALMOST ANY KIND OF RECEP-TACLE WILL DO.

Patrons of Country Postal Service Can Make Their Own, So Long as They Conform to the Required Specifications.

Washington.—From recent discussion upon the subject and statements which have appeared in the public press relative to the amendment which was proposed in the senate to the bill making appropriation for the service of the post office department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1907, wherein it is proposed that patrons of rural delivery could make their own mail boxes of metal or of wood, it would seem that there is a general misunderstanding concerning the requirements of the post office department applicable to rural delivery boxes.

The order of the postmaster general, now in force which requires patrons of rural delivery to supply themselves with suitable boxes provides that all rural mail boxes shall be made of galvanized sheet iron or steel, of certain designated thicknesses for boxes of various sizes and styles, the minimum size box being indicated, the boxes to be made in a workmanlike manner and weatherproof, and to be submitted to a division superintendent of rural delivery or post office inspector in charge for examination for approval.

Inquiry at the department developed the fact that under the provisions of this order patrons of the service may make boxes for their own use, provided such boxes conform to the required specifications and are submitted for examination and approval. The allegation that there is a monopoly in the manufacture and sale of boxes which have been approved for use on rural routes is not founded on fact, as the postmaster general has approved for 199 individuals and firms manufacturing boxes of various styles of boxes, varying in price from 50 cents to four dollars each, the average price being about one dollar each, and there is great competition among manufacturers for this business.

Long before the matter was taken up by congress, and as far back as the early part of March, 1905, the department had under consideration the matter of amplifying and amending the previous order which had been issued concerning the construction of rural mail boxes, so that any patron who desired could make or have made for his individual use a box conforming to the requirements by submitting the plan of such box and sample of material of which it is to be constructed, or the box itself, to the postmaster at a post office located at a county seat for approval, and if the box should be found to conform to the specifications of the department, the owner would be authorized to imprint on the box the words, "Approved by the Postmaster General."

By this plan the expense heretofore entailed upon the maker of an individual box in forwarding a rural mail box to a division superintendent of rural delivery or post office inspector in charge for examination and approval will be obviated. It is proposed to issue an amendatory order embodying these suggestions within a few days. It should be stated, however, that patrons who avail themselves of the privilege of making their own boxes, or having same made to order, must conform to the specifications as to material, size and manner of construction required in the original order.

SNAKE CIRCUS BRINGS COIN

Summer Boarders Shower Money on Pennsylvania Man with Reptile Show.

Stroudsburg, Pa.—Martin Fish, a Canadensis man, has devised a new sort of a show to give the thrills to jaded summer boarders, and although he asks but the modest sum of ten cents admission, he is making out well with it.

Fish's stock in trade consists of 33 rattlesnakes, which he himself caught in the neighborhood of his Canadensis home. They vary in length from three feet to five. Visitors are admitted to the room where the reptiles are, and are usually greeted with vigorous hissing and rattling, for the snakes are in prime fettle, thanks to Fish's knowledge of their habits and how to feed them.

Spectators are admitted to a post quite near the exhibit, but of course in a position secure from danger. Townspeople and neighbors are admitted free, and Fish merely charges summer visitors enough to reward his efforts in catching and caring for the uncanny creatures.

Hens Are Lay Members.

Baltimore, Md.—John G. Herman has organized the chickens in the neighborhood of Wesley Methodist Episcopal church, near Sykesville, Carroll county, Md., into a missionary society to raise funds to aid the church. Each hen is a lay member, so to speak. The farmers of the neighborhood have agreed to give to the church the eggs that their hens lay on Sunday. They will be placed in a basket at the pulpit every Sunday afternoon at the hour of the Epworth league meeting, and Mr. Herman will stamp each egg with the date on which it was laid. The following day, Monday, he will bring them to Baltimore. He has agreed to realize two cents on each egg, no matter what may be the market price.

HUGE BLACKBERRY

Luscious Fruit Is Found in the Pennsylvania Mountains This Season.

Gaines, Pa.—The Pine creek barrens are where the huckleberries are abundant, but appearances indicate that they are to be scarce hereabout and throughout Tioga county this season. At this time of the year the barrens, as a rule, are fairly blue with these luscious berries, and a skilled picker earns from \$2.50 a day upward.

The experimenter the fall with his sack and milks the fruit in with both hands. Parties come and camp on the barrens for days, and pick from daylight till dark, until they gather all that they have receptacles and wagon room to cart away. Thousands of bushels are gathered here annually, but this year is the exception. To the fascination of the work is added the element of danger, for the rattlesnake and huckleberry go together. Some families take advantage of the trip to smite the "bellbird," and at the same time lay in a supply of rattlesnake oil by trying out the flesh of the reptiles, which, in addition to its medicinal properties, has a voodoo charm, as some people believe.

What is lacking in huckleberries will be made up in blackberries, for the law of compensation works in this field as in others. The "long blackberries," which some people consider superior to others, are plentiful here as the sands of the sea. Never have they been known in such great quantities, and the oldest inhabitant is nonplussed when pressed for an explanation.

BOYS ORDER BIG ENGINE.

Hoosier Lads Read Catalogue and Decide a \$1,000 Machine Would Make Nice Toy.

Hobart, Ind.—New possibilities in the mail order business have been disclosed here. Several weeks ago Alfred Larson, a feed dealer living there, received a catalogue from an eastern machinery house. His grandson Harry, a ten-year-old boy, with a few friends named William Frame consulted the catalogue.

A traction machine propelled by a 4-horsepower gasoline engine attracted their attention, and they concluded it was just what they wanted. They filled in the printed blank sent with the catalogue and directed the company to ship the \$1,000 machine.

Mr. Larson was dumfounded when his grandson advised him that the machinery had arrived and wanted to take his team and haul it from the depot. His consternation was not lessened when the First National bank advised him an hour later that a sight draft for \$1,000 was waiting to be honored. The traction engine was returned.

When thrashed by his grandfather young Larson said: "Well, you won't have to pay anything. The catalogue says the company will pay the freight both ways if it doesn't suit, and I guess it's too big for Willie and me to use."

FISH ARE FOND OF WHISKY

Accident to Distillery Floods Their Habitation with Spirits—Caught by the Bushel.

Frankfort, Ky.—Even the fishes in Kentucky streams know a good brand of whisky. Thousands became intoxicated from too frequent tipping and the farmers had a busy day of it gathering in the fished roysters.

The stakestand at a distillery broke down and as a result more than 13,000 gallons of good whisky was lost. It made its way to Benson creek, only a few feet away. Farmers living along the banks of the stream noticed hundreds of fish either floating lazily on the surface or else leaping playfully out of the stream and altogether unafraid of the presence of man. The farmers caught them by the bushel and it was not until the news of the break at the distillery became known that the mystery was solved.

CLEVELAND WAISTS EXPAND

Physical Culture and Its Effects Responsible for Enlargement of Bathing Suits.

Cleveland, O.—Within a day or two the city will put a force of seamstresses to work letting out the waistbands of the 1,500 skirted bathing suits the city has for rent at the Gordon and Edgemoor water parks bathhouses.

"Two or three years ago," Chief Goldsoll, of the park police, said, "the cry was for smaller waistbands. Late last summer we began to find that the average of the bands was too small. They tell me that the physical culture fads, corset reform and the interest of women in athletics are responsible for the larger waists."

Also the few long-sleeved bathing suits for young women are to be remodeled into the more fashionable short-sleeved suits.

Typetting by Telegraph.

Milan, Italy.—A young printer named Cava has invented a method of typetting by telegraph, which he thinks will revolutionize the transmitting of messages. He couples the Hughes instrument with the monotype composing machine, and instead of the message being printed on a tape receiving apparatus, perforations are made in monotype paper bands. The experiments are said to have been completely successful. The newspaper bitterly complain that the Italian government will not allow them to have private wires, without which it is impossible to make use of the Cava discovery.

PAUPERS ARE FEWER

ALMSHOUSE POPULATION LOWER, SAYS CENSUS BUREAU.

Majority of Them Are Men—Foreigners Outnumber American-Born Among Public Dependents—Many Are Diseased.

Washington.—The bureau of the census has just published a special report on paupers in the almshouses of the United States. The bureau's inquiry develops several interesting facts, among which are that pauperism is decreasing and that hospital facilities for unfortunate former paupers to almshouses have become better and more scientifically administered.

The number of paupers in almshouses on December 31, 1905, was 81,764, and the number admitted during 1904 81,412, making a total of 163,176 persons who were in almshouses during the whole or a part of the year, 1904. Of this total 111,817 were men and 51,359 women. The number included 52,444 men and 29,320 women, and the number admitted, 59,373 men and 22,039 women.

The number of paupers in almshouses in 1880 was 68,203 and in 1896 72,046. But although the number of almshouse paupers is increasing, the increase has not kept pace with the growth of population and consequently the ratio of almshouse paupers to population is decreasing. In 1880 it was 132 per 100,000 of population; it decreased to 116.8 in 1890 and to 101.4 in 1903. In part, at least, this decline in institutional pauperism is due to changes in the treatment of the mentally and physically defective poor, who in former times were sent to almshouses but are now cared for in hospitals or asylums, and also to the development of rationally organized charity which strives to make the poor self-supporting and to place destitute children in families rather than in almshouses.

Although pauperism is less prevalent among women than among men, the chief distinction between the two sexes seems to be that women, having once entered an almshouse are there permanently, while men are to a large extent only winter boarders. Although decreasing, the ratio are still high in some of the older commonwealths located in sections with large urban centers and a comparatively high density of population.

Climate affects pauperism in states where severe winters prevail and those permitting easy entrance and discharge from almshouses.

For example, states with large urban populations and states with methods of almshouse administration allowing great freedom of ingress and egress show large percentages of admissions and discharges, while agricultural states and states with mild winters show correspondingly small percentages.

The percentages of discharges do not, however, signify that the discharged never return, for of the thousands who are discharged with the opening of summer the majority can be depended upon to return with the cold weather. In fact, the number admitted during 1904 were, for the most part, seasoned inmates.

The foreign-born whites whose economic position is not high show a greater tendency toward pauperism than the native whites of native parentage and native whites of foreign parentage. There is, however, no reason to believe that many immigrants drift into almshouses soon after their arrival in the United States, for only 2.3 per cent of all the foreign born in almshouses had been in this country for less than five years. Among the different nationalities of foreign-born whites the degree of thrift, combined with racial characteristics, seems to determine the tendency toward pauperism.

That pauperism is in a large measure a concomitant of age and its accompanying evils is shown by the large percentage at least 50 years of age, and the rapid increase in the number of almshouse paupers in each of the succeeding quinquennial age periods between 25 and 65 years, after which the high death rate prevents any further increase.

The relation between age and pauperism is also shown when it is observed that the proportion of paupers appears to be much smaller among the native whites of foreign parentage, in which class there are comparatively few elderly persons, than it is among the foreign-born whites which class is composed for the most part of adults.

Among the relatively large numbers of negroes in the earlier age groups are found many who are suffering from pulmonary complaints and many feeble-minded who are sent to the almshouse as soon as their inability to earn a livelihood is established.

Of the total paupers in almshouses nearly two-thirds were mentally or physically defective. More than three-fourths of the almshouse paupers old enough to work were incapacitated.

Of the aggregate almshouse population 17,154 died during the year. Of this number more than two-thirds were at least 50 years of age.

Finde Bracelet in Catfish.

Cincinnati.—Henry Kellerman, of St. Bernard, an enthusiastic disciple of Isaac Walton, reported the catch of an unusually large catfish, which had in its stomach a gold bracelet lost by Miss Anna Senning, a girl friend, while she was out boating with him three years ago. The bracelet was returned to its owner.

CLOTHES MADE FROM WOOD

Strong Probability of the Future, According to a Technical Authority.

"It will probably not be very long before we can go into one of the dry goods stores and say to a clerk: 'Let me see what you have in the line of wooden suits.' He may reply: 'Hard or soft?' whereupon it will be our part to specify that we want a suit of 'good pine,' 'without any cheap sawwood.' Vests of this kind are already worn by the carding-room foremen in some of the woolen mills. The material resembles a stiff, thick cloth, and is apparently as durable as leather. It is not improbable that in the future cheap suits, costing about 50 cents, and guaranteed to last for years, will be made of spruce or pine. Napkins, shirts, collars of the finest quality have long been made from the fiber of hemp; and, in using wood for heavier cloth, the process is equally simple. The wood is first ground into a soft pulp, and this pulp is pressed through holes in iron plates. It comes out in long ropes about one-half inch in diameter. These ropes, which are very easily broken at this stage, are dried, and then twisted tightly, until finally they become as small as threads. Part of the threads are used for the warp and part for the filling, out of which a strong web of wooden cloth is woven."—Technical World.

FAITHFUL TO HIS TRUST.

Chinaman Carried Correspondent Through Country Bristling with Dangers.

The route led directly through the heart of the "Hung-huize" country, which was at that time in a state of disorder, writes T. F. Millard, in the New Far East. As I had no passport to travel in that locality, I was forced to conceal myself in one of those instruments of torture known as a Peking cart, my luggage occupying another. The arrangements were made by a Christian friend of mine in Mexico, who committed me to the care of an old carrier, with instructions for him to get me across the border.

Making just before the dawn one morning, finally arriving, safely in neutral territory. Two nights I slept in villages infested by "Hung-huizes." It would have been a simple matter for them to have made away with me and seized my effects and my carters could have easily betrayed me without fear of detection. But such was my confidence in the integrity of the Chinese that I did not feel the slightest uneasiness, although I was entirely unarmed. During the entire trip I was compelled to trust absolutely to the old carrier, not being able to hold any communication with him, as he did not understand a word of English or any other foreign language, and I cannot speak Chinese. He showed great cleverness in getting me across the Liao river, past the Cossack border guards, without being detected; and when we arrived at Siumintia he seemed even more pleased than myself, and refused to accept any remuneration in excess of the sum agreed upon.

Dwelt Too Much on Spangles.

Ten thousand apologies are due a very blonde and pretty young lady by all parties concerned. Last week she attended the cathedral reunion, where her fair hair and pink skin were admirably set off by a simple yet extremely becoming evening gown of black Brussels net, heavily spangled with gold sequins. Late on the same evening the Post woman reporter in dictating the names of the ladies present and their costumes read off the name of the young lady, adding: "Black net gown, gilt spangles." In a little aside she murmured: "Be sure and get that in—very pretty gown—10,000 spangles." And to the horror of both young women, the male individual at the typewriter certainly did get it down, for the line which stood out most prominently of all others to at least one person read: "Miss ———, black net gown 10,000 spangles."—Boston Post.

American Morality.

The thermometer of American morals is legion. It is set up on the peaceful shores of a thousand rivers; it fringes the wayside of numberless country roads; it is surrounded by ripening fields and bearing orchards and its shelter is the farmhouse and the village home. These have their share of shame, but it is the normal share of normal humanity and not the abnormal excess of a state approaching Sodom. It is not a puritanical people we view when the gaze is cast forth over the hills and prairies. It is a decent people, whose dominant desire is domestic cleanliness and whose natural inclination is toward the good and right.—Philadelphia North American.

Nourishing Old Fruit Trees.

Often the roots of fruit trees, more exhausted than the parts in the air, refuse to supply the branches with their proper nourishment. To cure or prolong life of trees possessing still a certain vigor a French investigator has injected solutions of sulphate of iron and other chemicals into the trunks. The liquid penetrates into the cells of the tree, but not into the old wood. It follows the young layers, descending into the roots to the depth of three and a quarter feet and rising to the top of the tree with a uniform distribution. Good results are said to have been attained.

Up to Date.

"Is Maude very well and up-to-date?" "Is she well? Well, even that girl's dogs have had appendicitis!"

KOREA AND THE KOREANS.

Few Examples of the Strangest Life—Found Among Curious Oriental People.

Korea is a curious country, its people having many peculiarities which belong neither to China nor Japan, much as its inhabitants have in common with those two nations.

The Chinamen we know as a race of hard workers, and the Japs as a quick, ingenious and active folk; but the Korean is an oriental "Weary Willie." No one knows how to idle more gracefully than he. He takes existence so easily that he will not even go to the trouble of avoiding dangers that threaten his life, says the Montreal Family Herald and Weekly Star. In those districts where tigers are numerous the Korean villagers constantly sleep with the doors of the houses open. Now and again a sleeping Korean disappears, to the accompaniment of angry growls and soft, padded footsteps. The survivors are deeply grieved, but console themselves with the reflection that life is uncertain for all of us.

When the electric tramway line was laid down in Seoul, the capital, two Koreans were discovered one day sleeping with their heads actually pillowed on the rails.

As befits an easy-going race, given to take the world as it comes, the Koreans are a kindly and well-disposed people. They are much given to forms and ceremonies, and, like the Chinese, they have a great reverence for old age. As in China, too, it is considered polite to inquire the age of a stranger or guest. A Korean woman who understated her age, when asked, would do so for a very different reason than that which would impel a European lady to the same act. The Korean lady would be inspired by modesty, she would not care to claim all the respect to which her years entitled her.

A curious feature of Korean life, and one in which it presents a marked contrast to Japan and China, is seen in the absence of umbrellas. On wet days the Koreans appear in the streets in coats and hats of oiled paper.

MANY PAUPERS IN LONDON

Misery and Wretchedness in British Metropolis Are Disgrace to the Nation.

The number of paupers in London (excluding lunatics in county and borough asylums, registered hospitals and licensed houses, and patients in the fever and smallpox hospitals belonging to the managers of the metropolitan asylum districts) on April 14, 1906, and the corresponding weeks of March 1905, 1904 and 1903, shows the following figures. Number of paupers (excluding above-mentioned lunatics and vagrants): 1903, indoor 98,926, outdoor 39,770, total 138,696; 1904, indoor 72,949, outdoor 40,359, total 113,308; 1905, indoor 75,378, outdoor 44,866, total 120,244; 1906, indoor 72,811, outdoor 42,678, total 115,489. Number of vagrants, including on the night of Friday in the week: 1903, men 982, women 224, children 13, total 1,219; 1904, men 891, women 195, children 11, total 1,097; 1905, men 914, women 194, children 2, total 1,110; 1906, men 947, women 167, children 5, total 1,119.

Religion of the Apache.

The apaches, like many other North American tribes, are sun worshippers, says Scribner's. Their myths tell them that the sun is the all-powerful deity, and to it all supplications are addressed. On going into battle, planting corn, or starting on a cattle stealing expedition, the sun is asked to look with favor. That they believe in a future world is proved by their custom of killing horses and burying them, as well as their clothing and implements of the chase, for life in the future world. Not only the medicine man but the people claim to hold communion with the Child, or spirits of their ancestors. They are also great believers in omens, talismans and amulets, but are very conservative, and it is with difficulty that one gets them to discuss things supernatural. They will not talk about God among their own people with familiarity, and scarcely at all with the white man.

Mattresses and Eibbons.

The German military authorities have lately been making experiments with a new style of mattress. Somebody has discovered that palliases stuffed with the serpentina which are thrown about at carnival time make excellent mattresses for soldiers, and the few trials which have been made have proved the truth of the idea. Therefore, the German minister of war has determined to make a more extended experiment, and so the non-commissioned officers' school at Trep-tow has just received several wagons loaded of serpentina, and when the members of the school have slept on these new mattresses for some time the officials will make a solemn report to the war office. The question is, will the non-commissioned officers venture to say that their beds are uncomfortable?

Dooley Fools the Boss.

Casey—You're a hard wurruker, Dooley. How many hods of morther have yer carried up that ladder all day? Dooley—Whist, man! I'm foolin' th' boss. I've carried the same hod up an' down all day, an' he thinks I'm workin'.