

VERTICAL TRAVEL IS HEAVY.

Stair Climbing in New York Wastes the People's Energy.

New York.—Conservative estimates have it that New York's daily aggregation of vertical travel incident to the use of stairs is about 20,000 miles, consumes nearly five years of time, and involves the expenditure of 1,000,000 horsepower.

In a word, New York is face to face with the necessity of saving for her citizens the time and energy now expended in climbing. Under certain conditions, of course, elevators accomplish this end; under others, where travel is heavy during rush hours, the moving stairway, now installed at a few elevated stations, saves minutes and power in the most efficient way.

The "ramp" is simply a spiral incline plane, and such being the case, the reason for its adoption is not easy to see. It is the oldest means of vertical travel known, having been used in Assyria before stairs were invented.

TO END ROCKING OF SHIPS.

British Expert Offers Hope to Seasick Travelers.

London.—Ships that will not rock is the heavenly dream of Sir William White, late chief constructor of the British navy, held out to ocean travelers as likely to be realized at some future time.

Sir William put before the members of the Institution of Naval Architecture recently the results of experiments with Dr. Schlick's gyroscopic apparatus for steadying ships. The experiments were carried out on a German first-class torpedo boat, the apparatus a flywheel one meter in diameter, oscillating on trunnions, and making up to 3,000 revolutions a minute being placed in a compartment before the boiler room.

In all cases, said Sir William White, the practical effect was to extinguish the rolling motion of a ship almost immediately. The torpedo boat was practically deprived of rolling motion, and was simply subjected to heaving motions. To use Dr. Schlick's words:

"The waves seemed to disappear under her, and she rose with a gentle motion vertically upwards, and sank again just as gently into the trough of the sea without even spray coming on board to any extent worth mentioning."

Steamships of high speed, continued Sir William, formed a class in which the steadying effect of gyroscopes would be of great advantage, and there would be no difficulty in fitting them. It might be anticipated that experiments would be made before long with gyroscopic apparatus in destroyers and in the smaller classes of cruisers.

HAD TAPPED HEMLOCK TREES.

Vermonters Lose Maple Sugar Yield Through Ignorance of Worker.

Pomfret, Vt.—The next time Lawrence Pratt hires a new farm hand he will be certain that he understands his work before he sends him into the sugar bush to tap. It will save him a lot of trouble and much chaffing.

Mr. Pratt hired the man, Henry Jones by name, to do general work about the farm and help him out during the maple sugar season. He knew that Jones had been employed during haying last summer by a neighbor and had given satisfaction, so he didn't go into particulars.

When it came time to prepare spiles, or taps, for the maple trees, Jones appeared a bit rusty as to their manufacture, but after watching the boss for a few minutes he proved a master hand at whittling them. The farmer delegated Jones to tap the trees.

Everything went well until the first run was boiled. The sap seemed exceptionally sweet, but when it had been boiled down the syrup tasted bitter and he and Jones were nauseated.

"You are sure you didn't tap anything but maples?" inquired Mr. Pratt. "Why, there ain't nuthin' else in the orchard, is there?" asked Jones. "Nothing else," shouted the farmer. "Why, man, there must be 30 hemlocks sticking around."

"Well, then, I must have tapped 'em," groaned the hired man, "for I tapped every tree on the hill."

Sheep Annoy Trainmen.

Cripple Creek, Col.—The law forbidding the killing of mountain sheep is a good thing for the sheep but a frequent source of annoyance to trainmen, for the animals make a highway of the tracks and will not take to the right or left when a train approaches but will stick to the path. Trains have to stop while the train crews with loud cries and much profanity personally drive the sheep

SOCIETY OF ETERNAL YOUTH.

New Iowa Organization Fines All Sick Members.

Des Moines, Ia.—"The First Society of Eternal Youth" is the name of an organization founded here, which has for its object the prolongation of life, and which purposes to fine every member who becomes sick. That the association is in earnest is evidenced by the fact that 100 men already have enrolled in the scheme, the preamble of which reads as follows:

The special object and business of this society shall be to renew and perpetuate the mental, moral and physical youth and strength of all its members; to build up and continue in the highest degree the mental vigor in each individual member; and imperatively requiring from each and every member that he live the life of health, thereby contributing his share in banishing the specter of disease and death from the face of the earth.

Any member who is reported sick from any disease, and so remains sick and is confined to his bed for a continuous period of three days or more, shall be fined in a sum not less than one dollar nor more than ten dollars for the first offense. For the second offense under this article any member shall be suspended from membership, and for the third offense of any member in violation of this article expulsion from the society shall be the penalty.

All members upon joining must sign a pledge that he or she will continually assert that there is nothing but custom and habit of thought that causes people to be sick, grow old, or die.

SPORTSMEN LOSE A PARADISE.

Not Allowed to Bring Game From Mexico Across the Border.

San Antonio, Tex.—Mexico as a sportsman's paradise is a thing of the past for the hunters from the United States. This is due to the strict enforcement by the United States customs authorities of the provisions of the Lacey bird law, which makes persons having possession of game brought from another state or territory amenable to the laws of the state in which they are found, regardless of the fact that the game comes from without the state.

For years northern Mexico has been growing in popularity among the sportsmen from the States, owing to the abundance of game to be found in the republic and to the increasing restrictions of the Texas game laws. Until now Texas hunters have been allowed to return from Mexico with any quantity of game killed in the latter country and no questions were asked. Customs officers along the Rio Grande have received strict instructions as to the enforcement of the Lacey law and all along the border now the hunters are discouraged and uneasy, for many men have made their living by killing game in Mexico and shipping the same to the northern markets.

CRISSCROSSED MATING.

Old Man Weds a Girl and His Son Takes Her Mamma.

Sonoma, S. D.—A unique double wedding at which a man 80 years old married a girl 20 years old, and his son, 38 years old, married her mother, 44 years old, was celebrated near here a few days ago.

Richard Ellsworth, a widower, and his son, Keene Ellsworth, lived on a ranch adjoining that on which Mrs. Emma E. Barrett, a widow, and her daughter, Jennie Barrett, made their home. The elder Ellsworth drove frequently to the Barrett ranch to spend an evening, and so did his son. It was supposed by the neighbors that the father was paying court to Mrs. Barrett and that the son was paying court to her daughter. It was decided to have a double wedding and to take a wedding journey together.

Father and son and mother and daughter started south immediately after the ceremony and will spend a month there. Young Ellsworth will take charge of the Barrett ranch, while his father will live with his young bride on the Ellsworth ranch. They have been anxiously trying to figure out what relation each is to the others.

Three Years to Deliver Letter.

New York.—Midvale, in Passaic county, New Jersey, is about five miles north of Paterson, the county seat, but it has taken nearly three years for a letter mailed there to reach Paterson.

It was sent July 23, 1904, by David Beam, assessor of Midvale, and was an acknowledgment of the receipt of burial certificates of 20 excursionists killed in a train wreck on the Greenwood Lake railroad. The letter was addressed to the register of vital statistics of Paterson, and it arrived Saturday afternoon.

There is nothing on the envelope to show that the letter had been misrouted. It is stamped July 23, 1904. No explanation has been offered.

Mothers Have 38 Children.

San Francisco, Cal.—Statistics prepared by the immigration board at this port show that according to the claims of all the Chinese who swore they are native born every Chinese woman in this country must have been the mother of 38 children. This interesting condition was made known when the figures collected from various points in the country were tabulated.

WAS VERY NEAR DEATH.

Sensations of Man Who Grasped Live Electric Wire.

Otto Aultman, a photographer, was almost killed yesterday afternoon while attempting to turn on a 15-candle power incandescent light in his studio, says the Denver Post. He was badly shocked and burned and lay unconscious for almost an hour. The breaking of the electric wire from which he hung suspended is all that saved his life.

Aultman's body shows the marks of his terrible experience. His chest is as black as if it had been painted, his right hand is swollen, and blue marks run up both arms.

He says that when he seized the light the shock sent peculiar but unpleasant thrills through his body, and later, as he began to lose consciousness, a sickening sensation came over him and the blood in his veins seemed to congeal. His heart action became erratic, and every beat gave him great pain.

Suddenly all became black, and he did not know anything until he was revived by friends, who found him unconscious in a corner of the studio, with the broken wire and lamp socket still clutched tightly in his right hand.

READY WITH HIS EXPLANATION.

Little Ducky Evincen Much Presence of Mind in Emergency.

A negro minister from Georgia, who was visiting friends in New York city, went one Sunday to the cathedral on Fifth avenue.

He was very much impressed by the service, especially by the choir boys in the professional and recreational. When he returned to the south he resolved to introduce the same thing into his church, so he collected 15 or 20 little darkeys and drilled them until he had them well trained.

One Sunday the congregation were greatly surprised to see the choir boys marching in, singing the professional. The minister noticed that something was wrong; the boy in front was not carrying anything. He leaned over the pulpit, and in order to avoid attracting attention he chanted in tune to the song they were singing:

"What—have you done—with the in—cense—pot?"

The little ducky, with great presence of mind, chanted back:

"I—left it in—the aisle—it was too d—n hot."—Harper's Weekly.

A Plant of All Work.

The fields as well as the broad roads of Ecuador are inclosed by adobe walls surmounted by the broad leaved American aloe.

The aloe, sometimes called the century plant, is one of the most useful and important plants in the country. The Indians thatch their huts with its leaves. The leaves when tapped yield sirup, they can also be used as soap and the spines as pins.

The fiber is woven into sacks and from it are made coarse sandals worn by the common people. The tall flower stalks are used for beans and ladders. The flowers, boiled and soaked in vinegar, make an agreeable pickle.—National Geographic Magazine.

Boy's Idea of Breathing.

Prof. Emil Otto, the German educator, read at a dinner in Milwaukee an essay on "Breath" that a Milwaukee school teacher had given him as a curiosity.

The essay, the work of a boy of nine, ran as follows:

"Breath is made of air. We breathe with our lungs, our hearts, our livers and our kidneys. If it wasn't for our breath we would die when we slept. Our breath keeps the life agoing through the nose when we are asleep. Boys that stay in a room all day should not breathe. They should wait till they get outdoors. Boys in a room make carbonic oxide. Carbonic oxide is the most poisonous of living things, dead or alive."

Grounds for Clemency.

"Your honor," said the chauffeur arrested for skidding along the spine of a pedestrian, "I cannot afford to pay a fine."

"I suppose, then, you intend to pay the man you injured?"

"Even that luxury is denied me," said the prisoner, "for the accident cost all I had."

"Machine much damaged?"

"No; but I had a bet that I could cross the town at 30 miles an hour, and not hit anybody."

Lingering Doubt Remains.

"We've often heard about the meanest man, but I happen to know the meanest woman."

"Who's she?"

"The one who goes to weddings and slyly removes the cards from the presents so that the bride can never know which of her friends it was who gave her the plated butter knife."—Stray Stories.

HOODOO IN THE NAVY

BAD LUCK OF MFN ASSIGNED TO SHORE DUTY.

As Soon as They Return to Ships Some Accident Usually Happens—England and France Never Give Extended Land Leave.

New York.—A nemesis, or what may be more vulgarly termed a "hoodoo," seems to pursue captains of the United States navy who are detailed to the command of battleships after they have served a certain length of time on shore duty.

Officials of the navy yard are now wondering whether Capt. Hugo Osterhaus, who has been nominated to succeed Capt. William Swift as commander of the battleship Connecticut, will be the next victim of the relentless pursuer.

The "hoodoo" should stand Representative Foss in good stead when he renews his campaign to put the administration of the navy and navy yards strictly in civilian hands and to allow the admirals, captains and other officers of the line more time to develop their seafaring ability.

It may simply be coincidence, but it is a striking and persistent one, that catastrophes of late years have fallen every battleship that has been put in command of officers who have assumed charge after extended shore duty.

The last mishap to battleships occurred to the brand new Connecticut when she touched bottom off Cuba. Capt. Swift was put in command of her after he had served some years on shore as head of the ordnance department of the Brooklyn navy yard and as a member of the general board at Washington. Capt. Osterhaus, who succeeds Capt. Swift, has been a member for some time of the board of inspection and survey.

When the Rhode Island went ashore in the Potomac as she was leaving the Washington navy yard not very long ago she was in command of Capt. Perry Garst, who, up to the time of his assuming command of the ship, had served as a member of the light-house board.

And the Kentucky was in command of Capt. E. B. Barry two years ago, when she was inadvertently beached on the west bank of the Narrows. Capt. Barry was transferred to the Kentucky after he had served three years as aid to Commandant Rogers of the Brooklyn yard and a like term as a member of the local labor board.

The old Kearsarge met her fate eight years ago on Romador reef, off the coast of Honduras, when she was in command of Capt. Oscar J. Huyer-man, who, for six years, had served as head of the board of inspection at the Brooklyn navy yard.

There are those who declare that extended shore duty is a detriment to seamanship. They declare that those who are educated at Annapolis to run ships should be kept at sea, on the principle that practice makes perfect. In the navies of England and France no officer is given extended shore duty. At the various naval stations there is never but one captain who is detailed to shore duty, and his duty terminates after a period of three years. He is designated as captain of the port, and it is his business to look after sailors on shore and the care of ships while in port. Admirals are never delegated as commandants of naval stations or navy yards until they have completed the term of sea service.

In the American navy, however, a different system obtains. The various departments in every navy yard are headed by captains, with the possible exception of the department of construction and repair. At present there are three captains, six commandants, seven lieutenant commandants and five lieutenants stationed at the Brooklyn navy yard who some day will be designated for sea duty. "Will the Nemesis also pursue these?" is the question they are asking.

SNIFF KISS ORIGINAL CARESS.

Ancients Did Not Understand Art of Occlusion, Says Professor.

Philadelphia.—The climax of interest at the recent session of the American Oriental society was reached when Prof. Hopkins of Yale read his paper on "The Sniff Kiss in Ancient India."

The paper was a history of the kiss as we know it. The learned professor traced it from its birth and proved that the earliest peoples and earliest times knew it not. That there might be no mistake he labeled the kiss of to-day "the genuine kiss" and "the perfect kiss." Oddly enough, he finds, that the genuine kiss was invented by a woman. The description is given in the epic of ancient India which treats of the science of love.

"She laid her mouth to my mouth," recites the poet, "and made a noise which gave me pleasure."

With that discovery, said Prof. Hopkins, grew the fashion which has since known no abatement.

"The early peoples," he continued, "knew nothing of the kiss in any form. They knew of it they would have told something of it in the mass of records that has come down to us, for, surely, an act which conveys such pleasure could not have been forgotten."

"With the development of the genuine kiss, the sniff kiss disappeared, never to reappear. It had served its purpose and soon was forgotten."

AS IT APPEARED TO HIM.

Inverted Ships Gave Clue to Answer of Inquirer.

Among the many multi-millionaires South Africa has furnished London with its one who, although he has since learned to read and write, could do neither in the old days when he was making his fortune at Kimberley. His want of education was a standing joke among the members of the Kimberley club, where he was wont to spend his afternoons, pretending to read a newspaper, which he more often than not held upside down.

In those days the English newspapers were not so freely circulated in South Africa, and readers had to depend on a "Shipping Gazette" style of journal, in which the advertisements were generally headed by the block of a ship in full sail. X, as we will call him, it being useless to try to invent an assumed German name, was holding this newspaper upside down, when a friend approached and put the usual question. "Well, my boy, what's the news?" "Oh, nodding, much," replied X: "only a lot of bloomin' shipwrecks," pointing to the inverted pictures of the sailing vessels.

WITCHES STILL BELIEVED IN.

Superstition Is Strong in Many Parts of England.

Neglected by the powers, witches ceased to be so notorious, but the belief continued to exist, and does exist now, in rural parts of Scotland and England; and in England and France, even in the towns, fortune-tellers, whether they charge a guinea or a shilling for their advice, are witches under the terms of the old statutes, and flourish abundantly, but as they are not burned they are supposed by superficial observers to have been exterminated by school boards and electric lighting. The blacker sort of witch who "overlooks" and casts spells on man and beast may be found in many rural regions north and south.

One of them was brought before a squire and J. P. of my acquaintance as a dangerous nuisance. He said to her, solemnly: "You know, Betty, the Bible says 'Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live in the parish,'" and she migrated, under certain conditions of compensation, to another parish.—Andrew Lang in the London Post.

Betraying Confidence.

One of the diversions of modern biographers is to dig up the private correspondence of dead worthies. In order to glean from it what manner of man "the real Jones" was, says a writer in the New York Mail. This practice has its intrusive aspects, but in results it is less startling than the latter-day habit of pilfering the letters of the living, or publishing, under provocation or under court subpoenas, missives marked "confidential." It is all a rather pitiful development of the snooping habit in human nature. It argues the decay of the fiduciary principle in the relations between man and man. A frankly worded letter constitutes an appeal to the loyalty of human nature. To take unfair advantage of it is to put an extinguisher on an ideal of mutual confidence that ought to be encouraged rather than penalized.

Nitrogen for Tires.

One of the reasons why pneumatic tires gradually become exhausted, even when unpunctured, is that the compressed air within slowly escapes through the rubber, and this process is hastened by the oxidation of the rubber, which causes it to crack. As at last a partial remedy for this it has been proposed to inflate tires not with ordinary air, but with nitrogen, an inert gas which does not affect the rubber. Tests of nitrogen-inflated tires for automobiles have been made in France, and the results are said to be encouraging.—Youth's Companion.

A River That Eats Between Meals.

The Missouri river is the hungriest river ever created. It is eating all the time—eating yellow clay banks and cornfields, 50 acres at a month; winding up its banquet with a truck garden and picking its teeth with the timber of a big red barn. Its yearly menu is 10,000 acres of good, rich farming land, several miles of railroad, and a few hundred houses, a forest or two and uncounted miles of sand bars.—George Fitch, in American Magazine.

Toothpicks.

Toothpicks were in common use in ancient Rome. Sometimes they were made of quills, but preferably of the wood of the mastic or lentisk tree, whose astringent and aromatic gum is known to modern dentistry. Martial's epigrams frequently mention the denticulipium or toothpick, and recommend the wooden kind above the quill. The toothpick was taken to England by travelers from Italy and France.

An Exception.

Teacher—Now, children, remember the text, "Eat, Drink and Be Merry for Tomorrow you Die."

Pupil—Please, teacher, in our family we don't. We all take castor oil next day.—Life.

True to Her Sex.

Tom—Miss Peach has a secret charm about her that I can't understand.

Jack—Oh, don't let that worry you. She won't keep it any more than any other secret.—Chicago News.

WILL EAT SALTPETER

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO SETTLE MOOTED QUESTIONS.

Year's Experiments in Interest of Beef-Eating Public—One-Half to Be Fed on Meat Cured with Solution.

New York.—For a period of from six to twelve months a squad of vigorous and healthy men will be the subjects upon whom a small company of savants, working in the interests of humanity in general and beef-eaters in particular, will test the effects of meat that has been cured with saltpeter and other supposedly injurious preservatives.

This was settled the other day, when what will be known as the national commission for the investigation of nutrition problems was formed in New York at the Fifth Avenue hotel.

The organization will act under the auspices of the University of Illinois and it is composed of Prof. H. S. Gindley, of that institution, Prof. R. H. Chittenden, of Yale university, Prof. J. J. Abel of Johns Hopkins university and Prof. A. P. Mathews of Chicago university.

The movement was inaugurated by Prof. Edmund J. James of the University of Illinois, who will also take an active part in its progress. The experiments will be carried out at the University of Illinois, and it is said that they will be the most thorough of the kind ever undertaken in the United States.

"There has been great difference of opinion among experts," said Prof. Gindley, "as to the effect of certain preservatives used in the curing of meat and the commission will direct its attention first to the determination of some of these important questions. The first experiments will be to discover the effects upon the human body of the saltpeter used in curing meats."

"It is a well-known fact that salt peter taken in considerable quantities is a poison, but whether the small amount consumed by the eating of cured meats is in any way injurious has long been a mooted question. The data obtained will be of prime importance in aiding the enforcement of the present pure food laws and of the utmost importance in aiding in the formulation of further just regulations as to the use of such and other preservatives in food products."

The "saltpeter squad," as it might be called, will be housed in a specially equipped house in such a way that the weight of all foods eaten by each man can be accurately determined and the food completely analyzed. A physician will keep a daily record of the physical condition and health of each member of the squad.

The diet of half the men will include cured-meat products now on the market containing saltpeter and the other half will be fed on a diet exactly similar except that the cured meats will contain none of the preservatives.

Another interesting feature of the experiments will be that efforts will be made to have the men housed pleasantly and their meals so presented to them as to eliminate if possible the influence of the mental condition of the eater on the processes of digestion and nutrition.

It is the purpose of the commission also to make experiments of a similar kind upon the lower animals, so that at the end of the work the animals may be killed and a thorough examination made by the most approved methods to determine the effect of the saltpeter upon the internal organs connected with the processes of digestion and assimilation.

CREW BESET BY KIDDERLAK.

Peculiar Poisonous Bug Frightened Whole Ship's Crew.

New York.—The crew of the German steamship Wertenfels, which has arrived from Calcutta, had a thrilling experience during the voyage with a poisonous insect, known as a kidderlak, of the family of centipedes. For more than 20 days the sailors and later the officers dodged the much-dreaded pest. It is said to be almost certain death.

The insect was first discovered by a Lascar fireman, to whose race it is particularly inimical. First Officer Freivichs and Cap. Schmidt had at first laughed at his story of the presence of the kidderlak.

While Cap. Schmidt's steward was leaving the saloon or the pantry with dishes a week late he heard a crash behind him and held the potatoes he had just brought to the table, on the floor, together with fragments of the dish. On the other side of the room stood Cap. Schmidt, pointing speechlessly to a corner of the ceiling. There, clinging close to the wall, was the kidderlak, ready to make a jump for its table.

Second Officer Ise walked in just then and with a low from a poker laid the kidderlak out so dead that the insect had no even a chance to make one of the peculiar noises from which it derives its name.

Etiquette of a Real Gent.

Weary Willie—It talk straight, sport, I'm dyin' fr a drink. Gimme a quarter, will yer Galley—but you don't need a quarter to buy one drink. Weary Willie—One? Why, I ain't de kind of a gent w'll drink at a mudder gent's expense an' not a w' h'm ter join in.