

**PRESIDENT TAFT'S BED IN THE WHITE HOUSE.**



The accompanying photograph shows the elaborately carved bedstead which was presented to President Taft by the Filipinos, and was used by him in those islands and later in his Washington residence. It has now been installed in the White House. In construction, it suggests the sturdiness of Mr. Taft.—Harper's Weekly.

**THINGS WORTH KNOWING**

Eighty-eight Alpinists were killed last year. In the previous year the number was seventy-two, and in 1906 it was only fifty-nine.

Roosevelt and Taft are the only Presidents elected from the same towns in which they were born.

France is now claiming the record for depth in the bowels of the earth. At Bonchamp, in the Haute Saone, the Buyer shaft, sunk for coal, is said to be the deepest of all shafts sunk by the hand of man for industrial purposes. It is exactly 1010 metres, or about 1120 yards deep.

Complaints are made in German papers of the depredations of tourists who hunt in Spitzbergen; one wealthy Berliner killed thirteen bears in four days.

The postage stamp made its first appearance in 1839. Its invention is due to James Chalmers, a printer of Dundee, who died in 1863. England adopted the adhesive stamp, according to a decree of December 21, 1839, and issued the first stamps for public use on May 6, 1840. A year later they were introduced in the United States and Switzerland.

The mortality under chloroform averages one person in 16,000.

According to a Cornell University professor, insects pests cost the farmers of the country over \$700,000,000 a year.

When a hen attains her third year her laying capacity is at its best. She will lay, on an average, from 300 to 500 eggs in her lifetime.

Authoritative opinions hold that the number of sheep in all countries in the world decreased from 400,000,000, in 1873, to 300,000,000 in 1908.

Germany has spent \$150,000,000 in the last twenty years in the development and improvement of inland waterways. As a result the empire has now 8278 miles of navigable streams and canals.

The petroleum production of the United States in 1908 has been estimated at between 175,000,000 and 180,000,000 barrels, an increase of five to nine per cent., as compared with the production of 166,000,000 barrels in 1907.

Concrete itself is very old. The concrete stairs of Colchester and Rochester castles still show the marks of Agrippa's Pantheon, which is 142 feet in diameter, is of concrete, and fragments of concrete buildings are found in Mexico and Peru.

George, one of the fire department hoses in Bellevue, Ky., has acquired bad habits since beginning work for the city. He is a confirmed chewer of tobacco, taking a whole pack for a chew. It he can't get the tobacco he will chew klets or paper. He ate patrolman Klett's hat recently when refused a chew of tobacco.

In the railway mail service in 1888, before it was brought into the classified service under the law, there was one error in distribution of mail matter for every 3700 pieces correctly handled; in 1897, some years after the new system became operative, there were 12,000 pieces accurately sorted for every one that went astray.

**PANAMA AN OBJECT LESSON.**

It Has Set a Sanitary Standard for Future Undertakings.

The building of the Panama Canal and the sanitary record of the Japanese in their war with Russia are the two great object lessons of recent years, demonstrating that men can neither work nor fight to the best advantage unless protected from infectious and preventable diseases.

The civilized nation which will hereafter put an army in the field or undertake a great engineering problem without first preparing the way by adequate sanitary engineering and equipment will be regarded by the other nations, says the Medical News, as quite as foolish as a government which would build a vast fleet of modern warships and then arm them with muzzle loading ordnance of 100 years ago.

An epidemic of typhoid fever in a military camp should be considered a greater disgrace to an army than a defeat in battle since defeat may come in spite of the greatest exertions and the highest wisdom, while typhoid and yellow fever would be the result of ignorance or disregard of well known laws of prevention. All nations will profit by the sanitary lesson of the Panama Canal.

The scourge of yellow fever against which the French struggled in vain, has not been seen there since May, 1906, although it exists at several points to the north and south of the Canal Zone. Bubonic plague has not appeared since August, 1905, but that disease also has broken out not far away. No case of smallpox has been reported during the year.

**It Stuck.**  
The cat was being pursued by Patrick around and around the kitchen. A sudden turn in the chase landed it "kerplunk" into the crock containing the pancake batter. It scrambled out barely in time to escape a blow from the poker wielded by Patrick, and shot out into the yard.  
"Lave the poor baste go," begged Biddy, seeking to make peace. "The batter ain't hurt in the laste. Every place he touched it has stuck to him."  
—Everybody's Magazine.

**Getting Rich.**  
"How did you get the money to buy paints to finish your big picture?" asked the sympathetic intimate of the struggling artist. "Pawnd my coat." "Oh! And how much did you get for your picture?" "Nearly enough to get my coat out."—London Globe.

**PIRATES OF THE SULU SEA.**

Their Attack Upon Fleet of Pearling Boats—The Leader Jikiri.

Captain Charles Pfort, of the steamship Borneo, brought the startling news from Jolo that the pearling fleet of four boats belonging to B. Heaton-Ellis had been attacked by Moros while at anchor near the town of Parang.  
The Moros surrounded the pearlers and began the attack at long range. To this fire the crew of the pearlers responded to the best of their ability, but having a very limited number of arms and a small amount of ammunition their defense did not amount to much. Two of the pearling luggers immediately got up sail and were able to escape.

As the steamship Borneo was leaving Jolo a peeler was being towed in by a launch, but being pressed for time Captain Pfort could not wait to hear the details of the affair. However, the report that he brought is that four or five men were killed and several wounded and one of the boats was scuttled and sunk by the pirates.  
It is thought that the attack was organized and directed by Jikiri, the famous outlaw whose band killed the lumbermen Vermont and Case something more than a year ago.

While it is doubtless true that many of the crimes committed in the Moro province and credited to Jikiri were perpetrated by others, this last ferocious attack on the pearlery was most probably the work of Jikiri's band. It is known that his followers now amount to a considerable number of picked rascals, all of whom are armed with up-to-date rifles.—Mindanao (P. I.) Herald.

**Show Windows in Moscow.**

One street in Moscow, Miasnitskaya Ulitsa, is devoted almost entirely to stores selling machinery. The windows of these shops are large and of plate glass, and display the various wares to good advantage. Many windows are devoted to large exhibits of various mechanisms, and at a certain hour in the afternoon these machines are, so far as possible, set in motion to give practical illustration of their working. The windows are usually surrounded by men, many of whom seem to be mechanics, who appear to be keenly interested.

There is a demand here for machinery of all sorts, but with the exception of agricultural machinery, which is well and widely known here, American machines have not become as popular as they should. In conversation with importers of American goods I learn that this is greatly the fault of the American manufacturers. With the notable exception of the manufacturer of agricultural machinery, who has built up a large trade here, they are unwilling to accede to the customs of the country with regard to payment. — Consul-General Hunter Sharp.

**He Was On His Job.**

Railroad men are telling this incident as having occurred on a Kansas train some time ago. The rails spread, and the engine, tender and baggage car left the track, but the jar was not hard enough to disturb the sleepers in the rear Pullmans. In the last Pullman the porter was shining shoes, and thinking that the train was stopping at an unusual place, he went ahead to see about the difficulty. He was told that within a couple of hours the engine could be put back and the track repaired. So he got busy with his shoes again. Suddenly a head popped out of one of the berths and a man shouted: "Say, porter, what are we stopping here for?"  
"Oh," answered the porter, "we had a wreck—"  
"A wreck? Wow! Oh-oh-oh-wow-wow! My neck! My neck! My chest! My back! Oh-oh-oh!"—Kansas City Journal.

**One From Boston.**

Seldom do we find wits among the police lieutenants of this city, but one in a south end station may be in a class with George Ace. Recently a newly made patrolman, doing his route along the Common, discovered the frog pond to be overflowing.

It seems that those in charge had neglected to shut off the inlet, and as a result the water trickled over the edges. Thinking that the matter should be brought to the attention of his superior officer, the rookie called the desk from his next signal box. The conversation ran something like this:  
"Lieutenant, the frog pond is overflowing."  
"Ball it out with your hat," replied the lieutenant, closing the incident.—Boston Journal.

**Seventy Years at Anvil.**

S. E. Chamberlin, of Enfield, has the honor of being the Bay State's oldest blacksmith. For seventy years this veteran, now white-haired at the age of eighty-four, has stood at the anvil, and during that time he has shod more than 12,000 pairs of oxer and 60,000 horses.  
He can set a pace to-day that is strenuous for a man much younger.  
When he was fifty years old he frequently shod seven pairs of horses each working day, making the nails and shoes himself. He can turn a good shoe even now, and he retains the old hammer he used more than half a century ago.—Northampton Gazette.

**Forbidden Book in Korea.**

In obedience to an order of the Education Department the Police Department has made a visit to all the book stores and seized every copy they could find of the "Mansh ryok." The "Mansh ryok" is a book of calendars for the past few thousand years. We fail to see how the circulation of such a book can disturb the Korean or injure the Japanese; but we suppose the authorities in their wisdom imagine that it is dangerous, hence their action. The whole business, however, seems to be very foolish and childish. — Korea Daily News.

**Outside the Curriculum.**

Dolly—"We had to practice Chopin for three hours to-day, mamma!"  
Mrs. Parvenoo—"Really, my dear, shopping is all very well, but your papa sent you to the ladies' academy to learn music and that sort of thing!" —Tit-Bits.

**POPULAR SCIENCE**

An arrangement of a ship's lights in a definite triangle on a known plan is urged as a safeguard against collision. The lights would then show an observer on another ship the vessel's course, her distance from the observer, and her approximate speed.

It appears, according to facts collected by Arthur Mee, that Thomas Harriot, the English astronomer, born in 1560, made telescopes contemporaneous with the first instruments of Galileo. The very first telescope seems to have been made in Holland in 1608. The next year Galileo heard of the discovery, and, after writing for information, began his own experiments. In the same year Harriot had one or two of the Dutch telescopes sent to him, and immediately began improvements on his own account.

The great importance of X-ray and radium already play in the treatment of disease is shown by the appearance in Germany of a "Handbuch der Roentgentherapie," by O. Nemnich, which has nearly a thousand pages.

At a meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Paris it was established recently that ultra-violet rays passed through milk will completely sterilize the liquid and effectually rid it of all microbes. The fluid is sterilized without heating or the use of chemicals, and what is most important of all, without the loss of any essential character of the milk.

The euphorbias are very numerous in the colony of Queensland, and among them is the Euphorbia pilulifera, the "Queensland asthma plant," which has a remarkable reputation for curing this troublesome complaint. Several pharmaceutical preparations of the plant are extensively sold in Australia. Analysis shows that a green plant contained seventy-nine per cent. by weight of water and three per cent. of ash, leaving eighteen points of vegetable matter. A dried plant contained an alkaloidal substance equal to about one part in a thousand. It contained also a glucosidal substance to the amount of not more than four parts in the thousand. Possibly one or both of these was the active principle of the plant.

An instrument is being used in one of the South African mines which automatically keeps a record of the cage or skip journeys as well as the signals given in the shaft and in the engine room. A band of paper ruled off into time spaces is marked by a small disc provided with a needle at one side. While the skip or cage is in motion, the disc travels over the cylinder making its record. When the signal bell is sounded the needle is caused to perforate the paper once for each ring of the bell.

**By Trade a Worm Eater.**

By HELEN ZIMMERN.

Gothic, early Italian and Renaissance furniture can be copied with the greatest ease, and common wood is changed into walnut by the walnut's own juice. For the pieces that demand more delicate processes nitric acid eats away the epidermis of the wood, while permanganate of potash colors what remains. Worm holes are produced in various ways; one is to shoot into the fresh wood with a pistol charged with grapeshot. Unfortunately the tell-tale shot remains at the bottom of the hole. But who takes his furniture to pieces to look for such evidence?  
A worm-eater is a recognized profession, though this was not known to the English magistrate who asked a poor woman what her husband's trade was and got the astonishing reply, "A worm-eater, please your Worship." If a forger is quite unusually honest he procures old worm-eaten wood and makes his furniture out of that. It is told that some have even bought up old houses for the sake of their beams and rafters.

**Intruding.**

It was hardly dawn, and the window was open. The intruder had clambered up the front porch, and the interior of the room looked inviting. He could see that it was the abode of some person of wealth. There were costly ornaments about the room, any one of which would bring handsome returns at a pawnbroker's. A gold clock ticked on the mantel, and a silver service glistened on the table.

On a couch lay a man, sleeping heavily. His face was red and his hairless crown glistened in the first faint glow of day.  
"This is fine," muttered the intruder. "Here's a baldheaded man first thing. The season is opening in great shape."  
And the first fly crawled over the window sill, and the season of torture had begun.—Denver Republican.

**A Model Judge.**

In a case at Greenwich County Court Judge Willis remarked: "I do not make any claim to exceptional probity, but I do not know that I have never read a Sunday newspaper." Judge Willis has previously stated that he has  
Never used a telephone.  
Never ridden in a tube railway.  
Never watched a horse race.  
Never gambled a penny.  
Never entered a place of amusement when a lad.  
Never run into debt.  
Never borrowed money.—London Mail.

**It Killed the Rose.**

According to a lovely North Carolina woman, who has become a permanent resident of the city of Charleston, when rose cuttings are planted they must always be named, and so, when she planted a cutting in the yard of a neighbor several weeks ago, she named it "The Mecklenberg Declaration." And the rose cutting died, naturally, because the declaration is a myth, and no rose bush could live with such a name.—Charleston Courier.

**The Same Principle.**

"Just time you ever milked a cow, is it?" said Uncle John to his visiting nephew. "Wal, y' do it a darn sight better'n most city fellers do."  
"It seems to come natural somehow," said the youth, flushing with pleasure. "I've had a good deal of practice with a fountain pen."—Everybody's Magazine.

**ARAB-AMERICAN HORSES.**

Becoming More Common — Arab Strain Traced to David's Time.

Although never bred to as great an extent in America as in England, many good Arabian horses have been brought over and their influence is very noticeable, especially in the old Morgans. They have also been used at different times to improve almost every type—draught horses, roadsters, etc.

The famous gray charger ridden by General Washington in the Revolution was a son of Ranger, a desert bred Arab that was imported to New London, Conn., about 1765. In 1837 Commodore Elliott brought in a number of mares and stallions, but although recorded in Bruce's "American Stud Book" their disposition is not noted. Keene Richards also made some notable importations in 1854, but unfortunately practically all were lost in the Civil War.

Altogether in the century between 1760 and 1860 forty-two Arab horses and twelve mares are known to have been imported to the United States, including those presented to General Grant by the Sultan of Turkey. Most of the best pure Arabs in the country are related to these. Of late years the greater number of Arabs have come from England instead of direct, though a few breeders have gone to Arabia for them.

The practice of crossing Arabian horses with American thoroughbreds that are used for speed has become quite common of late years, for as a result of too much inbreeding and exaggerated development along race lines the thoroughbreds have become high strung animals, in many cases verging on nervous wrecks. At the present time there are several farms in this country which are quite successful in breeding pure Arabs with other horses for various purposes.

It is a mistaken though common opinion, says Country Life in America, that all Arabs are either spotted or white. On the contrary, there are no spotted horses in Arabia, and the only white animals are those that change from the gray in old age. It has been estimated that about fifty per cent. are bays, thirty per cent. grays and twenty per cent. chestnuts, with an occasional black or brown.

One of the ways of telling Arabian blood is by the color of the skin rather than the color of hair. The skin is always slate color, without the slightest spot of white or any other color.  
Arabian horses have been definitely traced back as far as 1835 B.C. to five beautiful mares owned by one Rabbah, a contemporary of King David. These five are the foundation of all our present day Arabs, their progeny having been bred in Arabia, without taint of foreign blood, for over 3000 years.

While the Arabs have always guarded their horses very carefully to keep the blood pure, and while their ways of rearing have been such as produced a fine and hardy race, their method selection of individuals for breeding never greatly modified the breed.

**About Soft-Shell Crabs.**

Many persons believe that the hard-shelled crab and the soft-shelled crab are two different species. This is not so. The shellfish thus distinguished are merely two conditions of the same species.

Once a year the crab sheds its hard outer coat, much as does a snake, in order to give itself room for greater growth. When it gets ready to make the transformation it slides in close to the shore, where the water at low tide will just cover it, and where it is comparatively safe from its maritime enemies. Then, when it is half buried in the sand, its shell splits open behind, and it painfully crawls out. The new coat, as soft as skin, is already well started. But until it shall have become fairly hard the crab stays almost motionless in the shoals. While it is in this condition its pincers are useless, and it falls an easy prey to the most insignificant enemy which happens upon it.

There is no particular time of year chosen by the crab for the metamorphosis. All through the twelve months fisher lads and barefoot fishermen wading through their basins along the shore at low tide gather the helpless crabs, which fetch a high price in the markets. In their soft state they are worth from four to five times their price when in their natural hard condition. — Chicago Daily News.

**Early Americans.**

So many popular descriptions and pictures of the mighty dinosaurs—"terror lizards"—which abounded in Western America in prehistoric times have lately been published that much curiosity is felt as to their probable manner of life. Dr. O. P. Hay contends that these animals, and particularly the species named Diplodocus, did not walk, and much less raise themselves on their hind legs, on land. Their great weight, about twenty tons, seems to him to preclude that idea. He believes that they were more like crocodiles in their habits, swimming easily and feeding largely on water plants, many of which they reached by means of their long necks. The Diplodocus had relatively very weak teeth.—Youth's Companion.

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**HOUSEHOLD MATTERS**

**Russian Pudding.**

Beat up two eggs in a pint of milk; the whites and yolks must be whisked separately. Add to this two ounces of bread crumbs, two ounces of finely chopped suet, the grated rind of one lemon, half an ounce of chopped citron peel, two tablespoonfuls brown sugar, five tablespoonfuls golden syrup. Beat to a stiff cream.

Fill a well buttered dish with the mixture, cover with buttered paper and steam for two hours and a half. Serve with sweetened white sauce flavored with vanilla extract.—New York Press.

**Coffee.**

The following directions for preparing coffee as they prepare it at the Waldorf-Astoria, are given in the National Food Magazine: Allow one tablespoonful of coffee to each person. The coffee when ground should be measured, put in the pot and boiling water poured over it in the proportion of three-quarters of a pint to each tablespoonful. The instant it boils take the pot off, uncover and let it stand a minute or two; then cover, put it back on the fire and boil again. Let it stand for five minutes to settle; it is then ready to pour out.

**Pressed Chickens.**

Boil a chicken in a little water as possible till the bones slip out and the other portions are soft. Remove the skin and fat, pick the meat apart and mix white and dark meat. Season the liquor highly with salt, pepper, celery and a little lemon juice. Boil down to one cupful and add a little gelatine to make it jelly. Butter a mold or oblong pan, turn in meat, drop in along centre slices of four hard boiled eggs, pour over the liquor when cool and place a weight on the top. When ready to serve, garnish with parsley or small crisp lettuce leaves.—New Haven Register.

**Terrapin a la Newberg.**

For this delicious dish a duck roasted the day before will be required. Cut the meat into dice and mix with one-half pound of boiled calf's liver. Put into the chafing dish a tablespoonful of butter and one of flour. Blend thoroughly, then light the lamp and add one-half pint of cream. When this is boiling add a teaspoonful of onion juice, a single clove of garlic split into halves and one-half can of mushrooms. Cook for three minutes longer and then stir in the chopped duck and liver. Slip underneath the hot water pan to keep hot for a second helping.—Boston Post.

**Eels a la Tartare.**

Get your fish merchant to draw and skin the eels, and cut them into lengths of about an inch long, wash them carefully and parboil them in water to which has been added a little salt and vinegar.

**Drain them carefully and let them get cold, then dip each piece in beaten egg and fine bread crumbs.**

Fry them in cooking hot fat till a golden brown and drain them on paper.  
Have ready a hot dish which has some tartare sauce poured in the centre; arrange the fish neatly, and serve immediately, and the heat of the dish will make the sauce go thin.

Tartare sauce is made as follows: To a gill of mayonnaise add a teaspoonful of mustard, a little finely chopped onion, some chopped tarragon and chervil, one teaspoonful of anchovy essence, squeeze of lemon juice and plenty of white pepper. Cayenne may be added to taste if liked.—New York Press.



**Chopped Olives are an addition to almost any salad.**

An excellent wash for the mouth before retiring is milk of magnesia.  
Have you ever noticed the soft, agreeable tone of the light which comes through the curtain of cream colored cheesecloth?  
"I always warm the flour," said a housewife, "when I make bread in cold weather. Then there is never any danger that the bread will not rise."

It is much newer not to put a fancy edge on the curtains of wash fabrics which you may be hanging at the windows. Let them hang straight and plain.  
Table linen hems much more easily if the dressing in it is first washed out, although there is no doubt but that a hem is turned more easily when new.  
When making fudge use one tablespoonful of peanut butter instead of butter and chopped nuts. This gives a much richer flavor, and is pleasanter to the tongue.  
When cutting a tomato some prefer to pass the knife frequently over the freshly cut surface of a large onion. The resulting flavor is indescribably delicate.

A quick way to bleach linen that has become yellow from lying a long time packed away is to soak it in sour milk or buttermilk for some time before laundering.  
The woman who knows how to relax and save her nervous energy sits when combing her hair or massaging her face. She does her work better because it is less tiresome to sit.  
To use more of the candle than is usually possible, fit a cork into the candlestick, leaving about a quarter of an inch space around the top. Run a heavy needle through the cork and push the candle down on that.

The new contracts alone, made last year by the New York Edison Company, numbered 34,831, aggregating an equivalent of 2,765,616 lamps of sixteen candle-power, consuming fifty watts.

**Improved Clothespin.**

If asked the question, the majority of housewives would say that the common clothespin was perfectly satisfactory in its present form. Nevertheless, a glance at the illustration below shows what a decided improvement can be made in these laundry accessories. The improved pin shown



here resembles somewhat the clamps used by photographers to support wet prints while drying. They are made so that any number can be placed on a clothesline, being movable in either direction. The clothes are supported by small jaws, the grip being decidedly firmer than in the ordinary clothespin. In addition, the clothes do not come in direct contact with the clothesline and cannot become soiled, as is often the case with the ordinary line. They are also easier to handle, and after the clothes are removed are allowed to remain on the line.

**Colombia Rich in Platinum.**

The platinum output of Colombia is second only to that of Russia. This precious metal, washed from the gravels of the Choco, is always found mixed with gold, sometimes one or the other metal greatly predominating. Although platinum occurs to a small extent in other parts of the Choco, its main sources are the Platina and Conoto rivers.

**CLOTHES MAKE MAN AND BOY.**



"Ah, Scorchers, so this is your boy. He's the image of you."—Harper's Weekly.

**Baseball Curver.**

If the Nebraska man who invented the baseball curver shown in the cut had kept the idea to himself and used it secretly, he could command a sal-



ary from one of the big league teams that would make an insurance president sit up and take notice. By means of this simple little device a man can throw inshoots, outside shots and drops with as much ease as he can pitch a straight ball, and the curves will be such as fans never dreamed of. The contrivance is simply a pair of connected elastic loops, designed to fit over the first two fingers of the right or left hand, as the case may be. Inside each loop is a metal plate with prongs which engage the ball and twist it in the direction desired. Every man who has played baseball to any extent knows that twist must be given a ball to make it curve in a given direction. The difficulty is to get such a purchase on the sphere as to make the twist sufficiently pronounced. With the metal grip this is easy.

Throughout the United States there is one licensed physician to every 799 persons; in New York State, one to 672, and in New York City, one to only 653.