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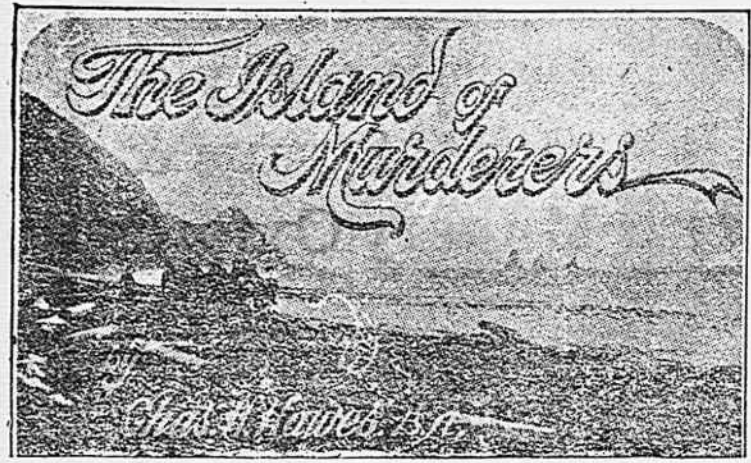
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NO 23.



The author is one of the only two or three Englishmen who have ever visited the "Asian prison-island of Sakhalin, which numbers no fewer than eight thousand murderers among its small population! Mr. Hawes paints a most impressive picture of the terrible life led by convicts in this grim land of despair and desolation.

Of all the penal settlements in Siberia the Island of Sakhalin has the worst reputation. This is not surprising when we remember its great distance from the central administration and that it is the prison-island to which all the worst criminals are sent. There are probably not a dozen free-born individuals outside of the convicts, ex-convicts, their wives and children, and the officials and native tribes. On January 1, 1898, there were on the island 22,167 convicts and ex-convicts. Of these 7089 were engaged in hard labor, and of this number alone no fewer than 2829 were convicted of murder, so that out of the total number of convicts and ex-convicts a moderate estimate would give 8300 as murderers!

Of the 2836 murderers the large proportion of 634 were women. Perhaps this is to be explained by the mentality of husbands under the influence of drink and passion, for many of these women had established or poisoned their partners in life. It is not surprising, therefore, that Sakhalin is a name not to be mentioned in St. Petersburg. To do so is a greater faux pas than to talk of Botany Bay in Sydney. But had as things were reported to be, I was fully aware that great strides had been made in the reform of prisons and prison management since the time when Mr. George Kennan visited them on the mainland in 1885, but I thought it extremely probable that the footsteps of reform had lagged behind the farther east one traveled them, and that on Sakhalin—if one could only get there—the condition of affairs would reflect the state of things that existed on the mainland ten years ago. And so I found it. No Englishman, with the exception of Mr. de Windt, who paid a flying visit to the island in 1896, when his ship called, had visited the prisons, and none had ever penetrated into the far interior.

After sundry adventures and many difficulties overcome, I succeeded in getting away from Nikolaevsk, which is on the mainland, near the mouth of the River Amur, to the island. At the very last moment I was pacing the deck of a tramp steamer which stood in about two miles from the shore, and the captain was signalling again and again. He despaired of being able to land me, though he good-naturedly delayed, and at length a tiny tug, to collect the state of things that existed on the mainland ten years ago. And so I found it. No Englishman, with the exception of Mr. de Windt, who paid a flying visit to the island in 1896, when his ship called, had visited the prisons, and none had ever penetrated into the far interior.

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Some weeks later I shared the log-house of a petty official engaged on the jetty, and so was able to stand up to watch the hatches of convicts arriving. One lot from Siberia had trumped the two thousand and seventy-five miles from Nertchensk to Nikolaevsk, with an occasional lift from a steamer, and the journey had occupied them three months. I know what it is to have had to struggle for a bare bench in a fourth-class Russian railway carriage where one sits and tries to sleep at night, and this was my home for a couple of weeks through a frozen country. But what was this to the lot of those poor convicts who, hungry and weary after

suddenly the storm burst upon us. To keep our guns dry and be ready for an attack was impossible, and I confess I was not sorry to be compelled to take refuge in the hut of a convict, which the howling of dogs announced to be near by.

It is almost impossible for these "brodyagas" (passportless vagabonds) to get away from the island. From the prison they escape into the forests, and there in summer they manage to exist on bilberries, cranberries, mushrooms and roots, and add to the little given them by comrades, whose sentences have expired, by waylaying passers-by. But when winter comes on, with its seven feet of snow and a temperature occasionally touching forty degrees (Fahr), below zero, with no food to be obtained and rags for clothing, they find their way back to the prison. After giving themselves up here they are flogged with the cruel "plet," and received back again with an additional sentence.

The photograph shows the instruments of the executioner—the "kobila," or bench, on which the convict is strapped; the birch-rods, which are dipped in hot brine, and the heavy, leaded "plet," with leaded ends. These are the instruments in use at Ilikovsk Prison.

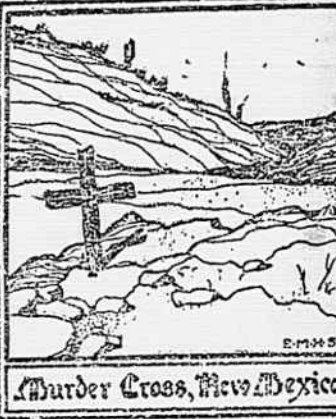
Another photograph shows the public executioner at Alexandrovsk, Co-

cutitioner, so that, should he be ordered the "plet," the leads should be brought down on the underside of the board and not on his bare body. Corporal punishment for women has been done away with by law in Russia, but in February of last year two women were flogged with birch-rods dipped in brine, and afterwards put in chains for refusing to obey their villainous overseers.—World Wide Magazine.

MURDER CROSSES.

Gruesome Memorials That Dot New Mexican Plains.

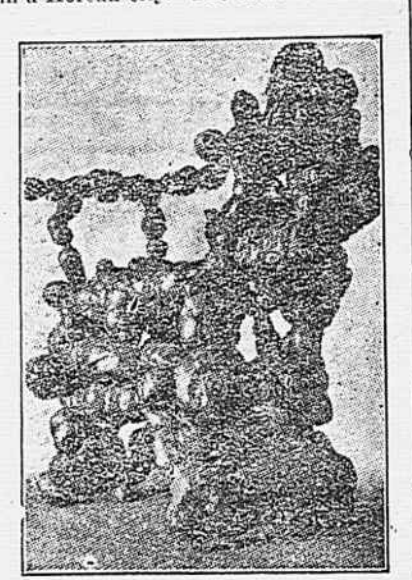
It is one of the charms of travel in the out-of-the-way districts of the United States to encounter picturesque customs untraced in the philosophy of the well-populated regions tributary to the great cities of the North and East. Particularly rich in these quaint ways is the Southwestern country, of



Murder Cross, New Mexico

which New Mexico is the geographical centre and which draws its traditions from old Spain. Among the peculiar customs of that territory is the practice of planting crosses on spots where murders have been committed. Not infrequently, as one rides across some lonely plain bare of vegetation save for the ubiquitous sagebrush and greasewood, or through some wild pass in the hills made wilder still by the desolate ruins of an abandoned adobe hut or two amid the cactuses. Such crosses are met with rising out of small piles of stones, the wood, although its shape was furnished by twisting and turning a vine out of which most of its framework was formed. It was brought to the United

States from the East. It is a relic of the archaic chair formed by natural growth. The archaic chair pictured in the accompanying illustration may be said to have partly grown out of the ground, although its shape was furnished by twisting and turning a vine out of which most of its framework was formed. It was brought to the United



CHAIR FORMED BY NATURAL GROWTH.

or ornamented with seeds of the gingko tree of various sizes, which have actually grown to the fiber of the vine. A Korean gardener, familiar with the adhesiveness of the seed, took a native vine, noted for its toughness, and made it into the form of a chair, holding it in place with branches of small trees. The seeds, fresh from the tree, were bound to the vine until they had firmly fastened themselves to it, the vine being allowed to grow in the meantime. After the seeds and boughs had become attached, the vine was cut from the roots, and this natural chair exposed to the sunlight until the sap had dried from the fiber and all of the material had hardened into a substance as solid as oak. It was then polished until its surface glistened like mahogany. Although but three feet four inches in height and twenty-five inches in width, the weight of this curiosity is over a hundred pounds, an account of which it is composed.

The archaic chair may well be regarded as a striking example of the gardening skill of the Far East.—Scientific American.

You can't liquidate a debt by paying compliments.

THE ILLS OF HORSEFLESH

HOW TO DETECT DEFECTS IN ANIMALS OFFERED FOR SALE.

Some Valuable Hints to Buyers—One of the First Blemishes To Look For Is the Spavin—The Poll Evil Is a Fatal Disease.

The ill which horseflesh is heir to form an important part in the market value of man's faithful friend. These ill, too, are of quite a numerous and strongly marked character, being part and parcel of the anatomy of a considerable percentage of the equine family. A perfect horse physically is enough of a rarity to cause comment and much boasting on the part of his owner, while the perfect horse in form, action, manners and disposition is an invaluable creature to his fortunate master.

In the regular sales conducted in horse centers the dealers become so expert in judging the animals that their parts are passed upon with lightning rapidity as the offerings appear in the ring to be sold at the hand, or, rather, at the mouth—of the auctioneer. A subject is then listed as having this or that blemish, or is simply "sold to the halter" at the buyer's risk. Putting aside the blemishes of a horse in disposition or training, which may properly be called blemishes in the abstract—like viciousness, balkiness or awkwardness—and looking solely to the deformities which mar figure and concrete usefulness of the four-legged servant, it is found that one of the most common blemishes is the splint—a small, bony formation, found usually just below the knee on the inside of one or both legs, arising between the two main bones of the forelegs.

The splint is a minor blemish that is usually an objection in that it mars the smoothness of the leg in the eye of the horseman. It is interesting, too, as a study in evolution, many regarding it as merely a rudimentary remnant of what was once an extra member in the prehistoric horse—the undeveloped horse of early creation. Quite certain it is that in a number of strains of the horse family the splint is regularly inherited and appears on nearly every foal. A splint can be reduced all or in part by early manipulation or later surgery.

One of the first blemishes looked for by the horse buyer is the spavin, commonly called a "jack." The hind leg of the horse is the home of the spavin, and there is the "bog" spavin which is not of bone. The former is the bad one, and as a rule makes the horse lame. The spavin comes on slowly and increases in size and its power to cripple its possessor as time passes. It shows on the hock, inside and just below the big joint. In rare cases it appears on the outside. Cures are few.

A bony growth sometimes appears between the fetlock and the hoof of the horse and is known as the ring-bone. It may be scarcely apparent, or it may come to entirely fill up that space with a rough, unnatural growth of bony substance. The blemish is a bad one, quite incurable, and makes its victim lame. The hind feet are more commonly affected than the front.

A little lower, next to the hoof, often in front than behind, is the seat of sidebone, a blemish less familiar to the ordinary eye than any of the foregoing. It has come into notice with the advent of the heavy draught breeds. Heavy weight and work on hard pavements are conducive to the sidebone, which is not more nor less than the upper and new growth of hoof rendered tender and diseased. In extreme cases it leads to the quitter, when it renders the worker useless. Taken in its early stage, it submits to treatment and rest. Pasturage often puts the hoof back to its normal growth and effects a cure.

A disease that ends in a queer growth on the very poll or top of the head of the horse is called "poll evil." The trouble is quickly observed, owing to the habit of the horse in stretching his neck straight out in front, and makes a pitiable spectacle of the patient. There is little left to do for the poor creature except to put it out of its misery.

A common blemish is the curb—a rounding off of the bone of the hind leg, just below the back joint of the hock. This formation does not injure the serviceability of the driver appreciably. If patiently rubbed when it first appears the curb can be reduced, the bone absorbing the growth, if not too prominent.

A wind-broken horse is one that has been permanently injured in breathing power by overdriving. Violent exercise weakens the weakness to the horseman who listens to the breathing. In extreme cases anyone can hear the brute roar a block away.

In purchasing a horse the careless man may neglect to note whether or not the animal is deaf; his eye may not be expert enough to see that the offering is a "swayback," is notched cut where the collar rests, has blistered shoulders, "string halt," so-called "capped hocks," is a cribber—as he will find out when the purchase is taken home and eats up the blind on the blind stagers, and overdriving, a sudden cooling off may develop a sweency—a soreness and stiffness of shoulders and front legs that cripples a horse sufficiently to ruin him as a member in good standing among his kind.

The heaves come on as years go by, like asthma in man, and is incurable. The ailment is not necessarily fatal and considerable service may be exacted from Old Dobbin if care is exercised in driving slowly and in feeding him only dampened food.

A horse may be "blue" or blind in one or both eyes; he may have white marks as remembrances of his days in pastures fenced with barbs; he may have a breach; he may have corns; he may be sore-footed from various causes or his ears may not be mated; or his tail may be carried to one side—all these defects which detract him from sale or show ring constitute "blemishes" in the vernacular of the horse dealing profession and are taken into

account in the buying and selling of the subject and greatest of all the animal kingdom—man's best friend, the horse.—Chicago Record Herald.

JAPANESE CHILDREN.

Deference to Elders and Helpful With Each Other.

The children of Japanese homes are well bred. A foreigner never fails to notice it. As a rule they are obedient and deferential to their elders, sweet and obliging among their equals, and patient to a degree that is philosophical, yet no mere genuine children are anywhere to be found. No child is without its responsibilities, and in most cases these are strapped to its back and it bears them cheerfully. There is a beautiful spirit of helpfulness between brothers and sisters.

I think the children have more real affection for each other than they do for their parents, for whom their respect is unbounded. Although the Japanese take great pride in their babies and their growing sons and daughters, they strenuously endeavor not to reveal it, and if you had naught but their word for it you would think they were quite harassed and disgusted with their offspring.

"I suppose," said a friend, before I left for Japan, "you will have to refer to your baby as 'my dirty, insignificant and troublesome little son.'"

Still, after all, no one can withstand the blandishments of an infant, and many a Japanese mother have I encountered in glowing details of the accomplishments of her small children. The mother does not often give them all the attention which mothers should. She is over at the beck and call of the head of the family, to the exclusion of all other requests. At such times if the babies protest they are stuffed with sweets and turned over to the servants, and such times are nearly all the time. The servants are not refined, but they are kind-hearted women, and they are closer members of the household than our servants are or would like to be, and for that reason they mother the children and naturally get the greater half of their love. Much of the discipline of the family is turned over to the elder brother. It is summary and sound. Occasionally the father devotes himself to the children on a picnic or a walk or in the evening telling them stories or playing games, but never under any circumstances will he leave his pipe and his dignity to crawl about on his hands and knees in the similitude of a lion. "Otosan" is always importunate.

Mothers and fathers often speak admiringly and wistfully of the care and love that are bestowed upon the children of the west, and it may come to pass some day that their own will figure more as human opportunities than as issues and heirs. A Japanese man from home is the most homesick man on land or off? It is Japan itself. All Japan is home to him, and no wonder. Never did any nationality in any age become more amalgamated. Its racial instincts exactly correspond to family pride and family affection. Its former exclusiveness bred these in the bone. Besides, its blood relationships are so closely interwoven that it is, in reality, one huge household and family.—The Congregationalist.

Municipal Works in England.

A Parliamentary report gives the figures of municipal works in England up to one year ago. It appears that 299 corporations with a population of 13,693,870 persons had gone into municipal trading with \$600,000,000 of investment. This money was borrowed upon bonds, but \$89,000,000 more has been repaid, and some \$16,000,000 more has been put away in sinking funds.

The average cost of operation \$40,000,000, the surplus of income over expenditure being more than 4 percent. But some of the corporations neglect to include in receipts the value of services furnished and municipality, such as street lights, water for public parks and buildings, etc. If these were included the returns would be higher.

The average interest payments were \$14,500,000, the average annual "write-off" for depreciation \$950,000—considerably too small, but more than American trusts have as yet usually allowed. The annual principal repaid was \$6,000,000.

The principal works included in the statement were markets, etc., 228 horse-drawn; water works, 193; burial grounds, 143; baths and wash-houses, 138; electricity, 102; gas works, 97; tramways, 45; harbors, etc., 43.—New York World.

Driving Large Rivets.

The rivets through the keel of the seven-masted schooner Thomas W. Lawson, that was launched from the Fore River shipyard a short time ago, were nearly five inches in length by 1-1/4 inches in diameter. It was not possible to upset these properly with an ordinary yoke, one arm of which served as the anvil to resist the blows of the pneumatic hammer carried by the other arm. To have the anvil heavy enough to accomplish the purpose would have produced one too extremely awkward and difficult to handle in the cramped quarters underneath the keel. The difficulty was overcome by doing away entirely with the anvil and substituting a second pneumatic hammer. The two hammers, one on the end of each arm of the yoke, worked perfectly, and there was no further trouble in making the rivets fill the holes completely. The stroke of the hammers were so exceedingly rapid that it made no difference whether they worked synchronously or not.—The Iron Age.

Old Age in Ceylon.

Centenarians are fairly common nowadays, but it may be questioned whether any country can boast of so many as Ceylon, which, according to the recent census returns, has no fewer than 145 inhabitants over 100 years of age. Seventy-one of these are males and 74 females. Of the 43 men and 52 women claimed to be exactly 100, while the highest age returned was 120.

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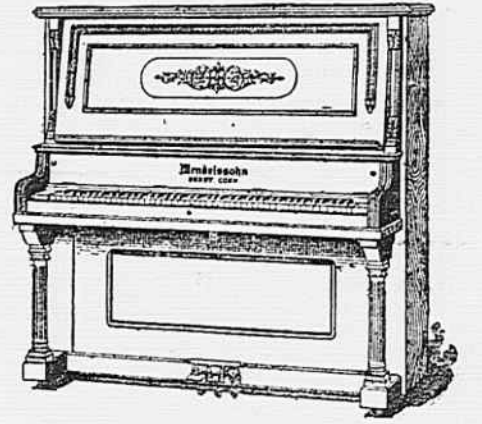
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RECIPES.

Vanity Puffs.—Put one cup of milk over the fire; when boiling add quickly and stir in rapidly half a cup of flour; cook until a stiff dough; let cool; add three eggs unbeaten one by one, beating well after adding each; then add one tablespoon of melted butter; dip a spoon into hot fat; take up some of the batter and drop into smoking hot oil; when brown remove with a skimmer; drain on paper; roll in cinnamon and sugar mixed.

Snow Pyramids.—To one pint of cold cream add four tablespoonsful of powdered sugar, one teaspoon of vanilla extract and one-fourth box of gelatine that has been soaking in a little cold water; when it begins to thicken a little while until light; turn into glasses and stand in a cool place; just before serving beat the whites of six eggs to a stiff meringue, with six tablespoonsful of powdered sugar, adding gradually half a cup of currant jelly; drop one spoonful of this on the top of each glass of cream, heaping it up like a pyramid; this will make a large quantity.

Hickory Nut Macaroons.—Chop fine and pound six ounces of shelled hickory nuts, with three-fourths pound of powdered sugar and one teaspoon of vanilla extract; mix well and add the beaten whites of eggs; the mixture should be a stiff paste; drop small spoonfuls on greased paper in a shallow pan and bake fifteen minutes in a moderate oven.

Apple Pudding.—Grease a baking dish; put some ground bread crumbs or shredded wheat crumbs over the bottom, then a layer of chopped apple, adding sugar, nutmeg or a grated lemon rind; continue with the alternate layers, and when the dish is full put small pieces of butter over the top and one cup of cold water; bake in a rather quick oven thirty minutes; serve with thin cream or hard sauce.

Coconut Cake.—Beat half a cup of butter and the yolks of four eggs together until light; add one cupful of sugar and the rind and juice of one lemon; beat well and add two cupfuls of sifted coconut, the whites of the eggs beaten stiff and three level teaspoonfuls of baking powder; turn into baking pan and bake in a moderate oven forty-five minutes; remove from the oven, let stand in the pan two minutes then turn out.

British officers in South Africa are complaining bitterly of the class of recruits now arriving. In one draft the average of the soldiers was eighteen, and there were a few who were far younger, mere boys of fourteen, although they were enlisted as being of proper age. The officers say that it is impossible to train these growing lads, as they are unable to bear the strain of hard work in a new climate. The Dutch openly recruits, while the appearance of the recruits, while the older soldiers christen their boy comrades after the secretary of war, Brodrick, whose name has become a general term for them.

VALUE OF CHEESECLOTH.

Cheescloth is of the greatest service in housecleaning, as nothing is so nice for polishing mirrors, windows, furniture, silver and cut-glass as this absorbent cotton which is even better after it is washed.

THREE LONG-SENTENCE CONVICTS.

able was my lot to that of those who had to spend the remainder of their lives on the island. As I stood looking out to sea the sun was setting behind a fiery-red cloud-bank. To me it pictured the passionate longing of those exiles whose eyes were straining ever westward to the land of the sunset, to the homestead, the land of friends and loved ones, so long ago left behind.

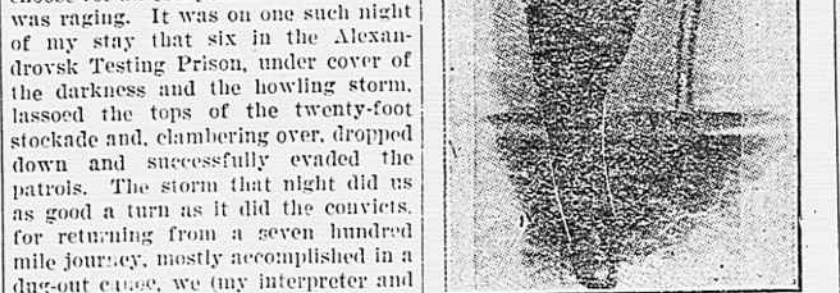
Some weeks later I shared the log-house of a petty official engaged on the jetty, and so was able to stand up to watch the hatches of convicts arriving. One lot from Siberia had trumped the two thousand and seventy-five miles from Nertchensk to Nikolaevsk, with an occasional lift from a steamer, and the journey had occupied them three months.

1. One of the Native Trackers. 2. The Executioner's Instruments. 3. Convicts Chained to Wheelbarrows.

Russian convicts are dressed in unbleached cotton shirts and trousers, with socks—or pieces of cloth wound around their legs, puttee fashion—and shoes. Over all they wear the "khalat," or long, over-the-knee. All are in chains. One degrading form of punishment, that of chaining the convict to a wheelbarrow, which is never detached either by day or night, has been abolished on the mainland; but on Sakhalin to-day there are still two men who are undergoing this miserable punishment.

This form of punishment, the officials say, is necessary to keep them from escaping. The clean shaving of half the head is also intended to render escape more difficult and identification easier.

Only one hundred out of the six hundred convicts in the worst prison were being sent out to do hard labor in the mines or road-making; it was not surprising, therefore, that the dreadful mines drove some of the remainder into risking attempts at flight. The night to choose for an escape was when a storm was raging. It was on one such night that I saw six in the Alexandrovsk Testing Prison, under cover of the darkness and the howling storm, lassoed the tops of the twenty-foot stockade and, clambering over, dropped down and successfully evaded the patrols. The storm that night did us good a turn as it did the convicts, for returning from a seven hundred mile journey, mostly accomplished in a dug-out canoe, we met interpreter and I had entered on our last stage which took us through the forest into which these six convicts had plunged. There were two roads before us, one traversing the forest and the other being merely the sandy beach. The latter was impassable at high tide, and had this advantage, that one had only to defend oneself from human—or, rather, inhuman—assaults on one side. An ex-convict who had given us hospitality begged us not to take this forest road. Now, of course, there is free masonry among the convicts and ex-convicts, and while he told us that they were armed with guns more particularly he would not divulge. Seeing us still unperplexed he backed up his statement by telling us how, the post, which I have seen leaving Alexandrovsk, twelve miles distant, carrying beside the driver one armed official and two soldiers with bayonets fixed, was held up on this road, a few miles out to take our chances of the rising tide cutting off the beach route, though we had just heard that the youth who lived with us at Alexandrovsk had been murdered on the sands for the sake of the gun he carried.



GOLINSKY, THE EXECUTIONER, WITH THE TERRIBLE "PLET."

pen to be in a fit of ill-humor when they go before him to prefer some simple request. My own interpreter, himself a man of rank, told me that in common with all the rest of the convicts and political exiles he paid tribute money in the shape of food to the ex-

CITY KITCHEN IN CHRISTIANIA.

One of the best municipal institutions in Norway is no doubt the city kitchen in Christiania, opened last year. During the last six months of 1902 no less than 1,621,240 meals were served to the poor, while 76,000 meals were sold at six cents a meal. The building is throughout fitted with the latest inventions and most up-to-date machinery, including a dish-washing machine, laundry machinery, etc. Our cut shows one of the large kitchen rooms where eight boilers are installed for the supply of heat and hot water.

