LOCAL OPTION BILL.

It Provides That Each County Shall Decide for Itself

THE WHISKEY QUESTION.

Proposed Regulations for County Dispensaries and Licensed Liquor Establishments.

Senator Apelt, of Clarendon, will introduce in the Senate at the coming meeting of that body a bill to submit at a general election the questions of prohibition, dispensary and license to the qualified electors of each county and to regulate the sale, use, consumption, transportation and disposition of intoxicating and alcoholic liquors in those counties adopting dispensary or license, and to prohibit the sale, use, consumption, transportation and disposition of alcoholic and intoxicating liquors in the counties adopting prohibition and provide penalties for violation of same.

Section one of the bill prohibits the manufacture, sale, barter or exchange, receipt or acceptance for unlawful use, delivery, storing and keeping in possession in this State any liquors which contains alcohol and is used as a beverage, except as hereinafter provided under a penalty of not less than three nor more than twelve months at hard labor in the State Penitentiary, or to pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or both fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court, for such offense, one-half of the fine in each case to go to the informer.

Section two provides that at the next general election in this State the following questions shall be submitted to the qualified electors of each county, to wit: 1st. The question of prohibition. 2nd. The question of dispensary. 3rd. The question of license authorized by the constitution in order that it may be determined by a vote of the people what shall be the regulations in each county pertaining to the liquor question and the result of the election shall determine the system adopted in each county. This section also provides the manner of holding said elections.

Section three provides that in the county or counties in which the majority of the qualified electors as determined by the proper officers and so declared by them, is for prohibition, the manufacture, sale, barter or exchange, receipt or acceptance, for unlawful use, delivery, storing and keeping in possession within such county or counties of any spirituous, malt, vinous, fermented, brewed (whether lager or rice beer) or other liquors, any compound or mixture thereof, by whatever name called or known which contains alcohol and is or may be used as a beverage, is hereby prohibited, under a penalty of not less than three months nor more than twelve months at hard labor in the State Penitentiary, or pay a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500, or both fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court, for each offense, one-half of the fine in each case to be paid to the informer.

Section four provides that in the county or counties in which the majority of the qualified electors, as determined by the proper officers and so declared by them, is for dispensary, a county board of control is hereby created, which shall consist of the county supervisor; the foreman of the grand jury, and one citizen of the county who shall be a tax payer and of good moral character and temperate habits, to be selected by the mayor or intendent of the county seat of each county, to continue in office for two years, and shall be subject to removal at any time in the discretion of said mayor or intendent. The membership of the board shall receive for their services three dollars per day, and shall not charge for more than three days in each month. The supervisor shall be the chairman of the board. Meetings for the transaction of business shall be held each month, but other meetings may be called by the chairman when the business demands it. This section goes on to prescribe the rules under which the dispensary shall be run, which are very similar to the present dispensary rules, except that the county board has complete control of the sale of all liquor in the county and the entire management of the dispensary, fixing the price of the liquor sold, etc. All the profits arising from the liquors shall go to the free schools of said county.

Section five provides that there may be one or more dispensary appointed for each county by the County Board of Control and the place of business of each shall be designated by them. The section also prescribes the qualifications of persons who are to be elected dispensers. Any one applying for the position of dispenser shall state his name, place of residence, in what business now engaged and in what business he has been engaged two years previous to filing petition: that he is a qualified elector of this State and a resident of the county; that he has never been adjudged guilty of violating the law in relation to intoxicating liquors; is not a keeper of a restaurant or place of amusement, and that he is not addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage. The appointment shall be made only on the conditions that the applicant shall execute to the county treasurer a bond in the penal sum of five thousand dollars, with good and sufficient sureties conditioned that he will well and truly obey the laws of the State of South Carolina, now, or hereafter enforced, in relation to the sale of intoxicating liquors; that he will faithfully account for all liquors of any kind received by him as such officer; that he will pay all fines, penalties, damage and cost that may be assessed or recorded against him for violation of such laws during the term for which said appointment is made, and he will not sell intoxicating liquors in violation of any of the provisions of this act, or at a place other than that fixed by the county board of control, or on credit. The bond shall be for the use of the county or any person or persons who may be damaged or injured by reason of any violation on the part of the obligor relating to intoxicating liquors purchased or sold during the term for which said appointment is made. The said bond shall be deposited with the county treasurer, and suit thereon shall be brought at any time by the solicitor or any person for whose benefit the same was given, and in case the conditions thereof, or any of them, shall be violated, the principal and sureties thereon shall also be jointly and severally liable for all civil damages, costs and judgments that may be obtained against the principal in any civil action brought by wife, child, parent, guardian, employer or other person under the provisions of the law. All other bonds shall be collected for the benefit of any person entitled thereto, and such bond shall go into the hands of the county treasurer for the benefit of the free schools of the county; said bond shall be approved by the county board of control.

Section six provides that each dispenser before entering upon his duties shall make and subscribe to the following oath, which shall be endorsed upon his bond: "I, ————, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly perform all and singular the conditions of the within bond and keep and perform the trust confided in me to keep and sell intoxicating liquors. I will not sell, give, or furnish to any person, any intoxicating liquors otherwise than is provided by law, and I will not sell or furnish intoxicating liquors to any minor, intoxicated person, or persons who are in the habit of becoming intoxicated, nor will I sell on credit to any one, nor between the hours of sundown and sunrise, or on Sundays, and I will make true, full and accurate returns to the county board of control on Monday of each week, and all certificates and requests made to or received by me as required by law, the preceding week, and such returns to show every sale and delivery of liquors made by me, or for me, during the week embraced therein, and such returns shall show all the liquors sold and delivered, and also the amount received and expenses." This section also provides that the county dispensaries shall be conducted pretty much as they are now conducted, with the exception that the rules are much stricter and the penalties more severe.

Section seven provides that in all purchases by the county board of control made as contemplated in this act, a certificate shall be attached to each package certified by their official signature, which certificate shall state that liquor contained in said packages has been purchased by the county board of control for sale and use within the State in the county or counties to which the liquors are to be shipped under the law of said State for such county or counties. It also provides penalties for the violation of the law. It also provides that the county board of control shall buy no package which shall contain less than one-half pint nor more than five gallons and the same shall be securely sealed; and when delivered to the county dispenser it shall be unlawful for him to break any of said packages or open the same for any reason whatsoever, provided this section shall not apply to malt liquors which may be purchased in cases of bottles, and shall be sold by the county dispenser. The provisions for the sale of liquor are same as those in the present dispensary law.

Section eight provides that all licensed druggists conducting drug stores and manufacturing proprietary medicines are authorized to purchase from the dispensaries of the county of their residence intoxicating liquors (not including malt) and alcohol for the purpose of compounding medicines, tinctures and extracts that cannot be used as a beverage. If said licensed druggists shall sell, barter, give away or exchange, or in any way dispose of said liquors for any purpose other than that authorized by this section or shall manufacture or compound with said liquors or alcohol any preparation, or compound under any form, name or device, for sale, which may be used as a beverage and is intoxicating in its character he shall, upon conviction, forfeit his license and be fined not less than $100, nor more than $500, or be imprisoned three months, or both in the discretion of the court.

Section nine provides that in such county or counties every person who shall directly or indirectly keep or maintain by himself, or by combining with others, or who shall aid, assent, abet in keeping or maintaing any club room or other place in which intoxicating or malt liquors are kept for barter or sale or for distribution or division by any means whatsoever, and on every person who shall barter, sell, dispense or abet another in so doing shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than $100, nor more than $500, or imprisonment not less than six months, provided, the county board of control shall have the power upon a proper showing and under such rules as they may adopt to appoint some one as dispenser in hotels, where tourists or health seekers resort and in no other hotels; the said dispenser to give bond as the county dispenser and be subject to all the provisions of this act and the rules of the county board of control and to be subject to all the penalties provided for the violation of the law by county dispensers. Said hotel dispensers shall only sell to guests of the hotel who are tourists or health seekers and the liquor so sold to them must not be drunk in the room in which such liquors are kept and sold; that all places where alcoholic liquors are manufactured, sold, bartered or given away in violation of this act, or where persons are permitted to resort for the purpose of drinking alcholic liquors as a beverage, or where alcoholic liquors are kept for sale, barter or delivery in violation of this act, are hereby declared to be a common nuisance, and any person, firm or corporation upon conviction of maintaining or keeping the same shall pay a fine of not less than two hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned not less than six months or both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Section ten provides that the members of the county board of control shall receive no samples as a gift or otherwise, from traveling salesmen selling liquors or from the manufacturers thereof, and shall be required faithfully to carry out the provisions of this act relating to a county or counties in which dispensaries are established and for any violation of any of the provisions of this act by them they shall, upon conviction be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned not less than six months or both fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court. That the official bonds of the county treasurer in such county or counties shall be liable for all moneys received from the county dispensers by them.

Section eleven provides that in the county or counties in which the majority of the qualified electors as determined by the proper officers and so declared by them is for granting license for the sale of liquors a license board is hereby created consisting of the county supervisor, the foreman of the grand jury and one citizens of the county, who shall be a taxpayer of good moral character and temperate habits, to be selected by the mayor or intendent of the municipal corporation at the county seat, to continue in office for two years and shall be subject to removal at any time in the discretion of the said mayor or intendent, which said board is hereby authorized and empowered to license persons or corporations within such county or counties to sell and retail alcoholic liquors within such county or counties under the provisions of this act. That said board shall receive as compensation for their services three dollars per day and shall not charge for more than three days in each month. The supervisor of the county shall be the chairman of the board. Meetings for the transaction of business shall be held once in each month the days to be fixed by the said board, but other meetings may be called by the chairman when business demands an extra meeting. The board shall use as their office the office of the county supervisor of the county and the clerk of the board of county commissioners shall act as the clerk of the board. The meetings of the board shall be public and minutes of all business transacted and matters brought before it shall be kept by the clerk, which shall always be open for the inspection of the public. The board shall preserve as a part of the record and files of their office all petitions for license, bond and all other papers pertaining to the granting of licenses, and keep suitable book for all their transactions which shall be furnished by the county like all other public records. The board shall make such rules and regulations as they may deem advisable in reference to the granting of license to sell and retail alcholic liquors as beverages, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this act relating to such county or counties. The board shall make a quarterly report to be filed in the office of the county treasurer showing the names of the persons to whom license have been granted for the preceding year, the names of the sureties on the bond of such persons or the corporations, the amount received from each for such licenses and all other transactions of the board which said report shall be published in one of the newspapers for such county or counties.

Section twelve provides that no license to sell and retail alcoholic liquors or beverages shall be granted by said board to any person or corporations except to sell and retail in the municipal towns and cities within such county or counties and shall not be granted to any such person or corporation for less than six hundred dollars nor more than twelve hundred dollars and for any intermediate sum which may be deemed advisable by the board and only for one year, the number of licenses to be granted in any such county or counties shall be determined by the said board. Provided, That all applications for license in towns under five thousand inhabitants shall be accompanied by a petition signed by a majority of the freehold voters of said town, and in cities of over five thousand inhabitants applications for license must be accompanied by a majority of the freehold voters in the ward where the license is to be operated. It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation to whom license is granted by the said board to sell alcoholic or malt liquors in quantities less than one half pint or to sell between sundown and sunrise, or to sell to any minor, drunkard or person in the habit of becoming intoxicated, on Sunday, or to sell adulterated or diluted liquors of any kind, and any person or corporation for violation of these provisions, shall upon conviction, be fined not less than three hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not less than three months nor more than six months in the State penitentiary, or both, such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court. This section also specifies the qualification of the person to whom licenses may be granted, which are about the same as those of dispensers. It also provides for a bond and oath similar to that of the dispenser. It also provides severe penalties for a violation of the law on the part of those to whom license are granted.

Section thirteen abolishes the State Board of Control and devolves its duties on the chairman of the committee of ways and means of the house of representatives and the chairman of the finance committee of the senate and the State treasurer. This board shall take charge of the State dispensary and shall exercise all the powers and duty now conferred upon the present State board of control in the management of the same. All county dispensers now in office shall continue in same until after the next general election in 1900, and shall be governed by all the provisions of existing laws relating to them. The State board shall not purchase any liquors except to supply certain brands to enable county dispensers to work off the stocks now on hand and it shall be their business to dispose as much as possible of these stocks so as to close up the operations of the State and county dispenseries as nearly practicable before the general election in 1900. The said State board shall sell all the wagons, horses, mules, furniture and all other pharaphernalia of the State dispensary on the first Monday in January, 1900, at public auction in the city of Columbia, after four weeks public advertisement, for cash, and to turn over the money arising from said sale to the State treasurer. This section provided that after the general election in 1900 the State Board shall sell all the liquors on hand and close up the business of the State dispensery.

Section fourteen says the provisions in this bill shall apply to all counties in the State. It also provides that any persons handling contraband liquor in the day or night time in any county of this State or delivering the same, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than three months nor more than twelve months or by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars. That no person or corporation except as provided in this act under the section relating to counties in which dispensaries or license have been voted, and in counties voting for prohibition shall not be of force, shall bring or import into this or transport from place to place within this State by wagon, cart, boats or other vehicles or by any other means of mode of carriage any liquors containing alcohol, under a penalty of one hundred dollars or imprisonment for thirty days for each offense, under conviction thereof as for a misdemeanor. That all fermented distilled or other liquids or liquors containing alcohol transported in this State, or remaining herein for use, sale, consumption, storage or other disposition, shall, upon arrival in this State, be subject to the operations and effects of this law to the same extent and in the same manner as though such liquor or liquids had been produced in this State, provided, in counties in which dispensary and licenses have been established by a vote of the citizens of these counties shall have the right to import liquors in a reasonable quantity for personal use and that in counties in which prohibition is established by a vote the right of private citizens to import for personal use is hereby prohibited. That it shall be the duty of all sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, magistrates and constables to see that the provisions of this act are observed and not violated, and any of these officers who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be subject to suspension by the governor. That in case of conviction of violation of any of the sections of this act where punishment is not especially provided for, the person or persons so convicted shall be punished in the discretion of the court. That citizens of this State shall have the right to make domestic wine for their own use, but shall not sell the same unless to the county board of control or to some person or corporation to whom license has been granted, except in counties in which prohibition is established, they shall not have the right to sell at all.

Section fifteen provides that whenever one-third of the qualified voters of any county shall present a written petition to the board of county commissioners praying for an election on the question of prohibition, dispensary or license, it shall be the duty of the said board of county commissioners to order said election and to make provisions for the same, to take place at the general election following the filing of the petition.

ELEPHANTS IN THE ARMY.

Some Points as to Their Employment by the British in India.

One of the most interesting features of the English army life presented to the layman in India is furnished by the remarkable efficiency of the elephant brigade, most highly developed through the skill of the Burmese in handling the giant animals. Their usefulness in India can scarcely be imagined by one not familiar with the amount and variety of work which they accomplish, but it would be a serious mistake to imagine that this degree of usefulness is attained through any aptitude of the unwieldy animals or natural tendency toward it. It is due solely and entirely to the wonderful ability of the natives in training the huge animals and overcoming their natural inclinations. This cannot be too highly praised. Neither must it be imagined that the use of elephants in army life is not attended by great disadvantages, not the least of which is the difficulty with which they are transported.

Naturally the elephant is not an intelligent animal. He can be taught remarkable things, in which his strength and endurance play an important part. He can never, however, perform these feats without continual attendance and direction. Abstractly, his power of work is unappreciable; when directed by skillful hands, however, it is remarkable.

The transportation facilities which are provided for the sole use of the elephants are quite as remarkable. I witnessed recently the loading and detraining of a lot of elephants on the Madras Railway. Both were remarkable processes. In loading a rope is fastened to his fore-leg, and a lot of natives haul and pull at it to induce the animal to take the first steps into the car. This is only accomplished, however, by admonishing him in the haunch by means of a tusk. The first step taken is rapidly followed by the others until he stands safely on the car.

This portion of the task is accomplished comparatively easily, however, when compared with the next. At first he is timid and slightly frightened, but when the car starts his fear is wonderful to behold. Though he may ride a hundred times he never overcomes this fear, though it is much more pronounced when he takes his initial ride after, say two months' acquaintance with civilization. He rends the air with wild trumpetings, endeavors fruitlessly to escape, and only ceases his efforts when the car has again come to a standstill.

Of course, wonderfully strong cars are necessary to hold him. They are made completely of iron, with huge iron bars rising to a height of ten or twelve feet above the platform. Often these cars are rendered useless by the twisting of the bars, due to the application of the occupant's remarkable strength.

In transporting the elephant by sea the difficulties are almost as great. They are raised by means of a canvas sling from the wharf to the ship, struggling to escape and rending the air with the cries. Once aboard ship they are easily managed, the motion not affecting them, because they do not see the moving panorama before them. Unloading them is easy. They are lowered to a raft beside the ship and allowed to swim ashore. They take to the water easily and are excellent swimmers, being able to swim eight or ten miles at a stretch without tiring.

The size of the Indian elephant is usually about eight feet in height and ten feet in length. The male is a little larger, perhaps, eleven feet, and weighing about 5,000 pounds.

A Pure and Simple Poker Story.

This is a poker story pure and simple. It was a particularly naughty game, too, because it was played by a young woman of high social standing against her own father, and the cheating that went on—but that comes later in the tale.

The thing really began last summer. This particular girl began to tease her respected papa for a new horse and trap.

Papa pleaded poverty, but the young woman kept on until the other night the thing was at last decided.

"I think it's mean," she cried almost tearfully. "You and Uncle Tom and the boys were playing poker last night, and I know you won. You might give me that trap."

Papa laughed and said something about pennywise, but one of the aforementioned "boys" who happened to be present suddenly looked up at the woebegone maiden with a sly wink.

"I tell you what, Uncle Ned," he drawled, "suppose you play her for it. If you win she's never to mention it again under penalty of starvation, and if she wins she can have it."

Papa poo-hooed a bit, but Uncle Tom came in and joined against him, the girl herself was willing, and so, as her luck on the few occasions when she had played poker had been proverbially bad, at last her stern parent relented, and the game began.

But he had counted without his host. There were three, not one, against him, and "the cards they were stacked in a way that I grieve."

He began to lose and kept on losing. He held fair hands, but his daughter's were always a little better, and for such a greenhorn at the game she played them with a skill that was remarkable.

Of course she won. The game was got up with the express purpose that she should win.

And equally, of course, she got the trap. She has it now. They meant to tell papa the "little joke," but they haven't yet, because he is heard to use improper language whenever the dainty vehicle comes in view. Also, incidentally, he has left off playing poker. Says he can't afford it. Whereat his wife is joyful. So wasn't that a case of one small wrong making two rights?

The rarest pocket handkerchief in the world is possessed by Queen Margaret of Italy. It is of lace, is estimated to be worth £5,920, and took twenty years to weave. The handkerchief is so light that it is scarcely felt if placed on the hand.

Eggs at twelve cents a dozen are cheap food. At sixteen cents they are expensive, and at twenty-five cents a dozen they are extravagant.

Probably the oldest living cyclist is a

STARTLING NEWS.

The Bubonic Plague Raging in Capital of Hawaii

SAN FRANCISCO ALARMED

Several Transports From Manila Held In Quarantine. Plague Rampant in India, China and Japan.

The army transports Centennial and Newport, which arrived at San Francisco Thursday night from Manila, via Honolulu, bring the startling news that the bubonic plague is raging in the capital city of the Hawaiian islands. It is understood that the scourge was brought into Honolulu by vessels from one of the infected ports of China.

The news of the breaking out of the plague in Honolulu has created some alarm among the California State and city health officials, and every precaution is being taken to prevent a possible admission of the disease into San Francisco. The transports Centennial and Newport, which arrived Thursday night, and the Tartar, which arrived from Manila Friday, are now at the quarantine station undergoing fumigation and will be detained at Angel island for some time.

News from reliable sources in the Orient is to the effect that the disease is prevalent in China and Japan to an unusual extent and that the officers at Manila have taken precaution to prevent the plague from getting a foothold there. News from Bombay is to the effect that the plague is rampant in India, and in view of these conditions the authorities in San Francisco and every port on the Pacific coast will take strenuous precautions to prevent the introduction of the bubonic plague on this coast.

A SAD ENDING.

A Horrible Accident at a Christmas Rehearsal.

While the school children of St. Francis school, Seventeenth and Vine streets, Quincy, Ill., were rehearsing Friday afternoon for an entertainment to be given next Thursday evening, one of their dresses caught fire from a gas jet and 10 minutes later four of them were burned to death, two died an hour later and five others died before midnight. Half a dozen others were burned more or less severely.

The first started in a little dressing room. Three or four little girls were dressing for the rehearsal and laughing gaily among themselves. A dozen others were grouped in the wings of the stage near the foot of the stairs descending from the dressing room. The girls in the dressing room had nearly completed their costumes when one of them brushed against the gas jet. A touch of the flame was sufficient; and in an instant her dress of cotton and light cloth was in a blaze. She screamed and ran out of the room communicating the blaze to the others as she ran. One of the girls, with her dress in a blaze, jumped out of a small window into the stairs leading to the stage and then down the stairs. A flaming torch she was, as she almost fell down the stairs and rushed into the groups of children standing in the wings. They were all clad, like her, in the fancy costumes of cotton, lace and silk, and the fire spread with incredible rapidity from one to the other. There was 14 children in the caste of the Christmas entertainment, and only a few escaped. It was over in 10 minutes and in that time four perished, seven were fatally burned and others more or less severely injured.

Frank Misholt, a teacher of the school, was standing at the foot of the stairs from the dressing room when he heard the cry of "Fire!" and turning to where it came from, saw the flash of flame in the dressing room. He was half way up the stairs at one bound when he met a child rushing and tumbling down, a mass of flames from head to foot. Tearing off his coat, he threw it around the blazing child and endeavored to extinguish the flames, but she jumped out of his arms and rushed on down past him, still wrapped in his coat, into the group of other children standing about in the wings of the stage.

All the telephone lines in the neighborhood were in service summoning surgeons, and in a few moments nearly all the doctors in town were on hand. Besides the many patients within the smoke-stained walls, there were dozens of fainting and heart broken women without.

A Great Invention.

James Gresham, of Brooklyn, has found capital to demonstrate the commercial value of his corkscrew boat, for which is anticipated a speed of 50 miles an hour. A syndicate of New York capitalists has agreed to furnish $50,000 with which to build a small boat on the corkscrew plan, with the further understanding that if it demonstrates its ability on a commercial scale to approximate the speed which the models have reached, the syndicate will furnish sufficient capital to build a mail boat. The inventor promises that his craft will cross the Atlantic in less than three days. The vessel, the construction of which is being arranged for at the Newport News shipyards, is not intended for passenger service, but only for the conveyance of mails and fast freight and for use in life saving stations. It is so constructed that it can penetrate the surf or the waves of the roughest water. The boat is cylindrical in shape, with a serpentine flange like a cork-screw extending from bow to stern, and the outer shell revolves through the water, while the inner compartment maintains its equipoise.

To Patrol Our Coast.

A special to the World from Halifax says: Great Britain is apparently preparing to patrol the Atlantic coast. The report that the larger part of the British North American and West Indies squadron have received orders concerning the alleged violation of the neutrality laws by vessels leaving American ports with contraband of war seems to be well founded. One of the officials of the navy yard said arrangements are being made for the dispatch of at least two vessels to do patrols duty on the South and North Atlantic coast. The cruiser will sail immediately after receipt of final orders.

Lovers of Music.

The lovers of music—their name is legion. All these want a first class piano or a first class organ. Such instruments may be had from D. A. Pressley, manager of the Columbia, S. C., branch of the widely known Ludden & Bates Southern Music House.

The Migration of Robins.

For many years naturalists like Audubon and Wilson studied and wrote of this bird before it was known that there were "robin roosts," as well as pigeon roosts. Only within the last few years was the fact brought out that a bird more familiarly known than the passenger pigeon followed this mode of spending the night, although it adopted spring instead of fall for massing by hundreds in a high sheltered wood for a night's protection from cold, or because it is the period before pairing time, or for some other reason at present beyond man's ken. With what stealth must this well-known and much-observed bird have found its way in such numbers to the same patch of timber night after night in the early months of the year, according to locality coming from all directions so swiftly that a secreted observer could not count, keeping up a chatter that could be heard for a long distance, until the last bird, somewhat belated, perhaps, found shelter in the darkening grove, when all became silent as thousands of wings were folded to rest.

Another peculiar trait of the robin, unnoted except by so keen an observer of bird ways as Maurice Thompson, is that, with all its friendly and confiding relations with the human family during the time of nesting and rearing its young, in the fall of the year, it becomes a wild bird, betaking itself largely to the woods and even the secluded parts of mountains, at this season showing little disposition to be on familiar terms with man, giving a note of alarm and flying high and swiftly when surprised at his approach. At this time they range over extensive tracts of country, but nearly always evince a tendency to seclusion. The writer has seen them in small flocks flying over a wide valley at such an elevation that only by the well known sharp squeak, rather than by the eye, could he surely determine that they were robins.

Even in its migratory habits this bird is somewhat peculiar. They seem to move southward in the fall with more tardiness than most other birds, allowing the increased severities of the cold season to push them off the winter's edge. Or are these late goers the birds lured to cold by a residence in the States further north, which, coming southward, take the place of others that have gone earlier in the season? The question of identity, always a difficult one, almost precludes argument on this point.

An Artistic Failure.

"Never!" said the stern-faced father to the fair-faced daughter, who stood before him in an attitude of petition. "You have brought me the surprise and disappointment of my life. Marry a Smith! I say most emphatically and decidedly, no! That is final, my child. We trace back beyond the flood and through a royal line. We were among the first to visit the shores of this new world and among the earliest settlers of Detroit. Have you no pride; no proper sense of your importance? Has it come to a point where I must exercise paternal authority in such a matter?"

"Oh, I guess the Smith family is as old as it is numerous," for the girl has a dash of American independence. "No Indian maiden ever saved any of our family in the early history of the country, that I can discover, and if you make it an issue, I'll undertake to show that the Smiths have all the best of it."

Now the old gentleman's face was red, and his eyes were snapping. It has been his way to cow his family by dramatic action, and in this case he wanted to throw in a little of the melodramatic. To do this he must be upon his feet, and have room. He sprung forward with the air of a tragedian, but he was in one of those narrow chairs with a frayed cane bottom and stiff arms. The chair clung to him as he leaped and he looked too ridiculous for words. He swore violently. The daughter screamed with laughter. His supreme dramatic effort was a howling farce, and he collapsed.

"Smith" is on the cards.

FREE BLOOD CURE

An Offer Proving Faith to Sufferers.

Eating Sores, Tumors, Ulcers, are all curable by B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm,) which is made especially to cure all terrible Blood Diseases. Persistent Sores, Blood and Skin Blemishes, Scrofula, that resist other treatments, are quickly cured by B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm). Skin Eruptions, Pimples, Red, Itching Eczema, Scales, Blisters, Boils, Carbuncles, Blotches, Catarrh, Rheumatism, etc., are all due to bad blood, and hence easily cured by B. B. B. Blood Poison producing Eating Sores, Eruptions, Swollen glands, Sore Throat etc., cured by B. B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm), in one to five months. B. B. B. does not contain vegetable or mineral poison. One bottle will test it in any case. For sale by druggists everywhere. Large bottles $1, six for five $5. Write for free sample bottle, which will be sent prepaid to Times readers, describ simptoms and personal free medical advice will be given. Address Blood Balm Co., Atlanta, Ga.

Needed in the Business

"I say," said the business man to the detective, "some fellow has been representing himself as a collector of ours. He has been taking in more money than any two of the men we have and I want him collared as quickly as you can."

"All right; I'll have him in jail in less than a week."

"Great Scot, man! I don't want to put him in jail; I want to engage him."—San Francisco Examiner.

His Explanation Went

"You were letting your horseless carriage run at an illegal rate of speed."

"Well, you see, judge, it was the first time she had been out of the stable for a month, and that idiotic new hostler of mine gave her a double allowance of kerosene, and, besides this, I was trying to drive her without blinders, and——"

"Discharged. Next case."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"I never knowed till jist now, Willie, de utter lonesomeness o' me situawashun. While I'm smokin' dis cigar ev'rything I got in dis world is goin' up in smoke."

St. Louis is the abiding place of one of the most indepenent individuals in this country, one James Eads How, who refused to accept a fortune of $1,000,000 bequeathed to him, because he had not earned it by his own efforts. He has recently attracted some more attention by a donation of $2,000 to the poor of St. Louis.

Old bachelors seem to be in demand in Pennsylvania. A rural paper recently contained the advertisement of a 70 year-old denizen who wanted a wife. In a little while he had about a thousands answers from women who were willing to help him break the monotony.

"I have used your 'Life for the Liver and Kidneys' with great benefit, and for Dyspepsia or any derangement of the Liver or Kidneys I regard it as being without an equal." James J. O-

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Makes the food more delicious and wholesome

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

KEY TO PYRAMIDS.

STONE IN BRITISH MUSEUM WHICH MADE PLAIN EGYPTIAN RECORDS.

Manners, Customs and Religious Rites of the Ancient Egyptian Brought to Light Through the Rosetta Stone—Three Languages Cut in It.

There are many historic and famous stones in the world, but few of them possess the value and interest of the piece of black basalt called the "Rosetta Stone," mounted in the west gallery of the British Museum. How many pass idly by this strangely shaped object each day and scarce give it the most casual attention. As a matter of fact, had it not been for the Rosetta Stone, our linguists would have been absolutely at a loss to decipher the Egyptian records; the hieroglyphic characters would have been meaningless tracings.

This stone, however, proved the key to the language of Egypt, and the importance of the work which has been accomplished through this knowledge is very great indeed. For instance, many points of dispute in relation to ancient history have been cleared up, and, in some instances, important passages of the Bible—especially relating to the period of time when the Hebrews dwelt "in the land of Egypt"—have been elucidated.

The manners, customs and religious rites of the Egyptians have been brought to light, and, through this stone, we are enabled to obtain an insight into the early history of this wonderful people. With far-seeing sagacity the mind which directed the cutting of the inscriptions upon the Rosetta Stone had it done in three different languages—no doubt with a view to making the hieroglyphic characters understood by the clever Greeks, the most intellectual people in the world at the time.

The Rosetta Stone is written in three languages—the Hieroglyphic, or language known only to the priest caste; the Demotic, or Enchurial, the common speech of the people, and the Greek. Had it not been for the use of the Greek, it is doubtful if the Rosetta Stone would ever have been deciphered. Of course, every classical scholar has a knowledge of Greek; by this knowledge the inscriptions in Egyptian language on the other parts of the stone were easily made out, and, by use of the key thus afforded, the whole of the characters of Egypt—which are picture words—became very easy to read, just as one may decipher the most difficult of crpytograms if he be possessed of a key.

The stone in question is of black basalt, as has been said. It is 3 feet 7 inches long, 2 feet 6 inches wide, containing one-third of the Hieroglyphic and nearly all of the Greek portions, the upper part and some of the sides having been broken away. The inscriptions on the stone pertain to a decree in honor of Ptolemy Epiphanes by the priests of Egypt, assembled at a synod at Memphis. The synod was convened on account of his remission of the arrears of taxes, and dues owed by the Sacerdotal body. So it seems, even in those early days, the "Sacerdotal body" were ready to convoke synods on the slightest provocation, especially in regard to their "dues and taxes."

This in itself is an instructive lesson, which shows us that the world is about the same today as it was in B. C. 196, when the stone was set up. The Rosetta Stone in the British Museum is the only discovered specimen of the numerous inscriptions of a similar nature set up at the same time.

The stone was found in 1799 by M. Boussard, a French officer of engineers, during the French occupation of Egypt. It was unearthed in an excavation made at Fort St. Julian, near Rosetta, a city of Egypt, on the west bank of the old Bolbitic Nile. The name "Rosetta" is derived from an old Egyptian word "Rousat," meaning "the mouth of the Nile." Recent excavations show that this stone was found on the site of a temple dedicated to Necho II. of the twenty-sixth dynasty. The worshippers in this temple paid homage to the Solar God, Atum or Tum.

Romance of Siam's Great Peaks.

Siam's greatest mountain range is the Sam Roi Yawt, or the three hundred peaks. A quaint legend, which explains their origin is set forth by the Siamese geologists as follows:

"It appears that one Mong Lai and his wife once inhabited the neighborhood (they were giants), and each promised their daughter in marriage, unknown to the other, to a different suitor. At last the day of the nuptials arrived, and Chao Lai and the Lord of Mieang Chin (China) both arrived to claim the bride. When the horrified father found how matters stood—having a regard for the value of a promise, which is not too common in the East—he cut his daughter in half, so that neither suitor should be disappointed.

Chao Lai in the meantime, on finding that he had a rival, committed suicide, and the peak of Chaolai is the remains of his body. The unfortunate bride is to be found in the islands off Sam Roi Yawt, the peaks of which are the remains of the gifts which were to be made to the holy man who was to solemnize the wedding, while Kaw Chang and Kaw King, on the east side of the gulf, are the elephant and buffalo cart in which the presents were brought."

A Strange Retribution.

A native paper printed in Arabic in Cairo states that a villager of Mewnieh sold some land. After discussing with his wife the best hiding place, he decided to put the money under the mattress of the baby's cot. Of course the entire village knew of the sale, and that night three robbers came to get the money. The baby began crying, and one of the robbers carried it out, cot and all. The father and mother, awakening, rushed out to rescue their treasure, but the man who had taken out the baby rushed back to join his comrades. In the turmoil the mud walls of the hovel were pulled down, crushing the three robbers, while the peasants, the baby and the money were safe outside.

Women admire a brave man and love an audacious one.

It's a wise girl that is able to analyze her own complexion.

There are no longer any farms in Northern Illinois. They have all been annexed to Chicago and cut up into town lots.

An Absolute Cure.

That alcoholism is a disease is universally recognized. To find a cure for that disease has been one aim of science for many long years. It remained for Dr. Leslie E. Keeley to discover such cure. Mr. N. A. Jordan, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, who attended a Keeley Institute, writes: "I am more than ever convinced that I succeeded in getting just what I went for, to wit: an absolute and positive cure for the greatest curse of the age—whiskey. I have been working harder than ever before and find it no trouble as I am enjoying better health than for years—thanks to

THE "SPEAKING STATUES."

Suppositions and Beliefs of the Ancient Egyptians in Regard to These Gods.

M. Gaston Maspero, the well-known French Egyptologist, has recently written an interesting article on the "speaking statues" of ancient Egypt. He says that the statues of some of the gods were made of jointed parts and were supposed to communicate with the faithful by speech, signs and other movements. They were made of wood, painted or gilded. Their hands could be raised and lowered and their heads moved, but it is not known whether their feet could be put in motion. When one of the faithful asked for advice their god answered either by signs or words. Occasionally long speeches were made, and at other times the answer was simply an inclination of the head. Every temple had priests whose special duty it was to assist the statues to make these communications. The priests did not make any mystery of their part in the proceedings. It was believed that the priests were intermediary between the gods and mortals, and the priests themselves had a very exalted idea of their calling. They firmly believed that the souls of divinities inhabited the statues, and they always approached them with religious fear and reverence.

These priests would stand behind the statues and move their heads or hands or speak for them, never doubting that at that moment their movements and words were inspired by the divine spirit dwelling in the statues. The statues were regarded as so very much alive that in war they shared the fate of those people whose deities they were. They were taken prisoners, condemned to death or given into slavery—in other words, placed in the temples of the conquering gods. If they were returned to their own temples, they bore inscriptions testifying to their defeat and imprisonment.

How Fishes Breathe.

Fishes breathe, as is well known, says Ulric Dahlgren in the Princeton Bulletin, by passing a stream of water through the oral cavity, in at the mouth and out by two lateral openings, the gill clefts. This is accomplished by a rhythmic motion, plainly visible, the nature of which, however, has never been accurately described, our best text-books of ichthyology calling it "swallowing," "an act similar to swallowing," &c.

The writer's discovery of two membranous valves just inside the teeth has made possible the following conception of the breathing of teleost fishes.

The construction and operation of the fish's apparatus is that of a perfect two-valve pump. In such a pump there must be a chamber which possesses two openings, each guarded by a valve. The forces necessary to operate such a structure are three (or six) in number: First, a force so applied as to alternately contract and expand the chamber; second, a force to alternately shut and open the posterior (exit) valve; third, a force to alternately shut and open the anterior valve. These valves must be operated in proper sequence to the expansion and contraction of the chamber. The valves may be operated either by separate mechanism or by the automatic action of a current passing through the chamber.

It is to this latter point that attention is called in the case of the fish. Here we find a chamber (the oral cavity) and two openings, the mouth (anterior opening) and the double gill opening (posterior opening). Muscular force is applied to expand and contract the oral cavity. But no such direct application of muscular force is needed to open and close the anterior and posterior openings. This is done automatically by the branchiostegal valves in the gill opening (or posterior opening), and by the maxillary and mandibular breathing valves in the mouth opening (or anterior opening).

The fish is thus not required to use separate muscles to close and open the passages but the loss of energy due to friction and retarded momentum on the valves must be added to that required to expand and contract the oral cavity. It is simply a mechanical economy such as is found in the heart.

Imitation Jewels.

One of the prima donnas at the New York opera house wears in one role a beautiful parure of diamonds, and she horrified another singer in the company by telling her that they were French imitations that had not cost one-fiftieth of what they seemed to have cost.

The other woman was distressed because all of hers were real, and the thought of