

WITH THE WORLD'S BEST WRITERS

THE AGE OF ALUMINUM.

Ever since the separation of the metal aluminum from its ores—and every claybank is an aluminum mine—inventors have dreamed of an "aluminum age," whose mechanical marvels should leave as far behind the present "age of steel" as we surpass the "age of stone" of the primitive man. Here was a beautiful metal that was only a third as heavy as iron; and what limit could there be to the wonders its use would make possible. The long-awaited airship was to become a reality and a revolution was to come at once in shipbuilding, railroading and automobilism.

But little can be done with a metal so soft that to secure the same strength as much aluminum in weight as of iron must be used. If only some way of tempering it could be found!

Now the announcement comes from Germany that this problem has been solved. "Meteorit" is a simple alloy of aluminum and phosphorus, and for it is claimed that it is six times as strong as aluminum itself, is noncorrosive, highly polishable, and may be soldered and galvanized with nickel or copper. If all that is claimed for it is true, then the "age of aluminum" may not be far distant.—Boston Globe.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN WAR.

The question of the value of wireless telegraphy in war has already been considered. Now it is supplemented by that of its legality. The Russian government has practically served notice that it regards it as illegal. At any rate, the use of such a device at the seat of war will be treated as a breach of neutrality. Correspondents telegraphing without wires will be shot as spies, and vessels equipped with wireless telegraphic apparatus venturing near the scene of war will, if caught, be confiscated as contraband of war. So far as correspondents accompanying the Russian army are concerned, we may unhesitatingly concede the Russian right of censorship. That is a matter of course. A belligerent power has the undoubted right to decide whether it will permit correspondents to accompany its army at all, of course, prescribe what matter may be sent through the lines, and how. Similarly, it may exercise a censorship over new vessels entering its territorial waters, or the waters implicated in the sphere of belligerent action. But a general outlawing of wireless telegraphy in that part of the world would be a much more extreme matter.—New York Tribune.

WORTH OF CHEERFUL WORK.

That which may truly be said of Americans is that they have not yet learned to rest from their labors betimes, to go upon a holiday in due season, to "loaf and invite their souls," as Whitman counseled them to do. All work, not less than all play, makes Jack a dull boy or man. Work regularly, intelligently, no matter how energetically done, is rather more likely to promote health than to impair it, or to prolong life, rather than to shorten it. The idle man, who lacks employment of body and mind, is more likely to suffer from nervous depression, or to discover, as Carlyle says, that he has within him that "infernal machine, a liver," than is the man who has serious work to think about, and who, by doing it, keeps his physical organs in normal condition. Indeed, the secret of healthful living seems to be a plenty of work cheerfully done—the maximum of inspiring labor and the minimum of dull care.—Philadelphia Ledger.

STATISTICS OF INSANITY.

A bureau at Washington has prepared some interesting statistics of the distribution of insanity throughout the United States. In the whole country one person of every 528 is crazy. In New England, one in every 359; in New York and Pennsylvania, one in 424; in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, one in 610; in the Middle West, one in 750; in the Southern states, one in 935; in the Rocky mountain states, one in 1,263; in the Pacific states, one in 387.

It will be seen that madness is more prevalent in New England than anywhere else, with the Pacific states a close second. The sanest part of the country is in the mountain region of the west, and the south comes next. In Kansas one person out of every 560 is crazy, and Missouri has one for every 602 of population. Some writer, in commenting on these facts, says that if anyone can construct and defend a theory to account for the variation, he is welcome to the opportunity. Still, the report gives some basis for speculation as to causes or reasons. For example, it is shown that the proportion of insanity among foreigners is double that among natives, and that the negro is only half as susceptible to madness as his white brother. This will account for the low rate in the south and the high rate in localities largely peopled by foreigners, but how are we going to account for the big rate in New England and on the Pacific coast?—Kansas City Journal.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

As gunpowder eliminated the heavily armored knight, so the rapid development of submarine explosives points to the disappearance of great armored ships, which must always be defenseless under the water's surface. It is merely a logical development of the inventive genius of the race that so vulnerable a point in war ships should finally be yielded up to the inevitable assault of any enemy. Even now, with torpedo boats numerous enough and with crews of sufficient persistence and daring, the battleships have met their match. In the future it seems certain that the tide of scientific progress will be on the side of the still imperfect submarine. There is but one possible outcome in such a struggle.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

LATIN-AMERICA.

It is a curious fact that the Latin-American countries have so little diplomatic intercourse with one another. This does not tend to confirm the allegation made every now and then that the Central and South American nations have a consuming jealousy and dislike of the United States and are inclined to form combinations to resist the assumed "aggression" of the Yankees. The Mexican Herald notes that there is but one diplomatic representative of Latin-American governments at the capital of our nearest southern sister nation, and that is the minister of little Guatemala, a next-door neighbor. Mexico has legations in the Argentine Republic, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and in fact all the other countries on the isthmus and in South America, but there is no reciprocity, for the habit of keeping ministers at the respective seats of government is more honored in the breach than in the observance. If the Latin-Americans are not thus friendly among themselves they are not likely to combine against the United States.—Troy Times.

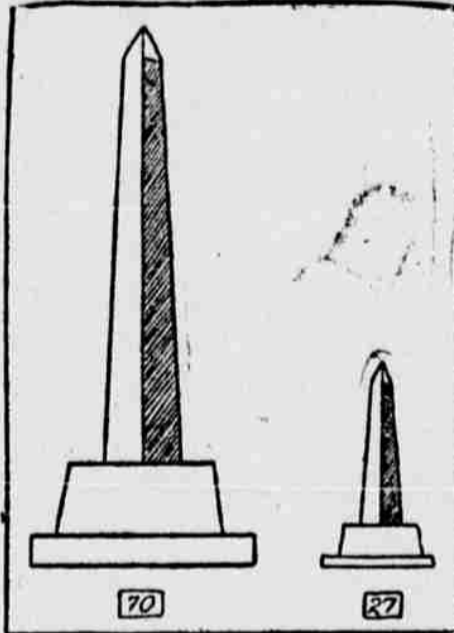
LENGTH OF MARRIED LIFE.

Statistics Show Joy Should Last for Twenty-Seven Years.

Statistics gathered in various countries of the civilized world show that married life, on the average, lasts twenty-seven years, or a little over one-third of a man's life, estimating the latter at three-score-and-ten. The illustration presents the idea in graphic form, for the happiness or consolation of those interested, as the case may be.

The figures also show that, as a rule, married people live longer than the unmarried, which carries out the dictum of the scriptures that "it is not good for man to live alone."

According to the statistics June holds the palm for the union of hearts and fortunes. It appears that there is some subtle connection between the



month of roses and the poetic fancy which leads brides to choose that time of the year for the happy ceremony.

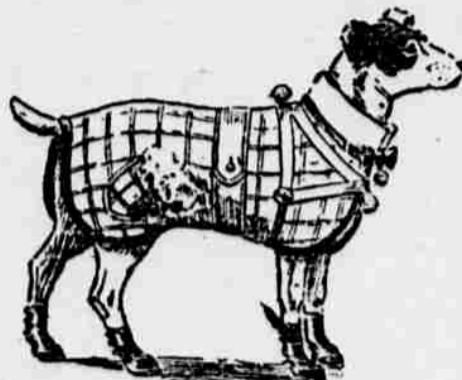
May is the most unpopular month. Candidates for marital honors seem to have taken seriously that old saying, "Marry in May and repent for aye." People who are matter-of-fact about all things else pay due regard to the popular superstition when it comes to this serious question.

Next to June comes January as the marriage month, and December is third. Then come, in order, July, November and April, while September and October show an equal number of marriages, leading August by one. February and March are dull months.

Phenomenal Luck at Whist.

An event which has been vouched for by witnesses and which was duly recorded in whist annals was the phenomenal hand of thirteen trumps. It occurred in a game at the United Service club in Calcutta in 1888, the players being a judge and three physicians. The pack had been perfectly shuffled and cut. It has been calculated that in a game of whist every one holds one of 635,013,559,600 possible hands, and Mr. Babbage reckoned that if a million men were to deal cards day and night at the rate of one deal per minute for a hundred million years they would not exhaust one hundred thousandth part of the possible variations of the cards.—New York Herald.

Dog Suits—London Style.



Here is a photograph of a lucky dog owned by an English peeress. Booted and clothed as shown in the picture, the animal appears in Hyde Park when his aristocratic mistress is out for a "constitutional." A maid accompanies the pair and manipulates the handkerchief whenever his dogship sneezes or sniffs.

UMBRELLAS OF HUGE SIZE.

Are Marks of Dignity in Ashanti and on the Gold Coast.

An inferior chief in Lagos has, it is feared, committed the indiscretion of using a large and elaborate umbrella, with the result that his superior chief is offended at what he regards a breach of Court etiquette.

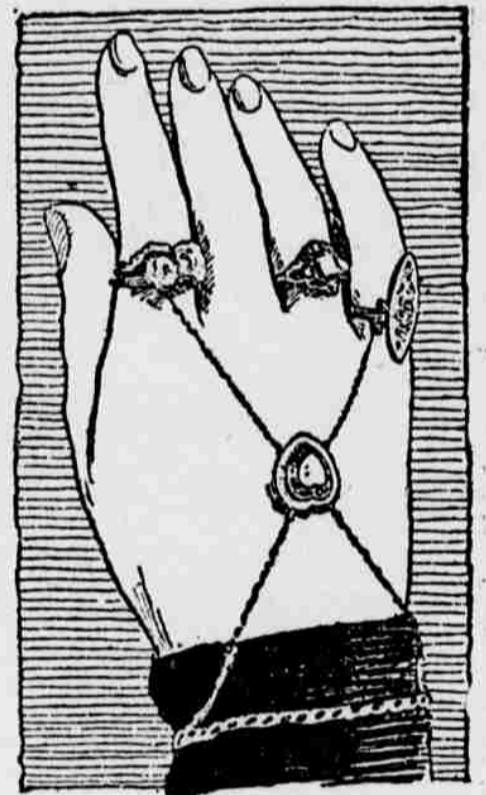
Hitherto no one but a principal chief had been allowed to carry an umbrella, and when some time ago a subordinate made an appearance with one of rather showy design he was promptly fined by the local Council.

The principal umbrellas for Ashanti and the Gold Coast chieftains are of enormous size, some of them when open measuring ten feet across.

A state umbrella dispatched from London a few weeks ago had for its apex a silver eagle standing on two silver cannon, nine inches in height. Another had as a symbolical ornament an eighteen-carat gold hen surrounded by eighteen-carat gold chickens, representing the chief and his tribe.

The coverings of the umbrellas are of red, white, yellow, and blue silk, with deep fringes. The largest umbrellas are carried over the heads of chiefs by bearers, while other bearers steady the umbrella by cords attached to the uppermost parts. A comparatively small umbrella, surmounted by chased silver knobs instead of an elaborate design, is for the inferior chiefs.

The Latest Fad in Jewelry.



The latest thing in jewelry is to wear a large diamond surrounded by little rubies upon the back of the hand, the ornament being fastened as shown in the sketch. The fashion comes from Paris, where this design has been patented. The prices run from \$150 upward, bracelets and rings included.

Used in Athens.



In an ancient tomb were found these toilet articles of a Grecian lady of antiquity. Figure a shows her hairpins, b is a hair ornament, c is an ear clearer, d, e and f are jars for ointment, and g is a back scraper.

Old Apple Tree Still Vigorous.

The oddest apple tree in the state of Pennsylvania is owned by Henry J. Miller of Hokendauqua. It is a paradise dwarf, 2½ feet high, with 72 blossoms, and it bore two apples last year.