

Curious Occupations Followed by Many

There are many professions in everyday life which are curious enough in themselves, but which the average person accepts as a matter of course on account of seeing them every day. There are also numerous professions in existence about which the average person knows little or nothing, and yet these callings furnish occupation for many people who have made a science out of their occupation.

A few years ago the professional golf instructor was almost unknown in this country, and the profession of instructor or instructress in whist or other card games was confined to a very few persons. Now both of these callings are common enough in every large community and excite no curiosity. The same is true of those persons who have taken advantage of any prevailing fad in which they were adepts to impart their learning to other persons who were willing to pay for it. Many women have made a respectable income by teaching some new kind of fancy work or crocheting, and this calling is quite old and well known in this country, but of recent years the art has been less practiced than formerly. And these professions are but a few of many which now excite no comment.

To find callings which are really novel and practically unknown on this side of the water, it is only necessary to choose a few from Paris. Among those which may be mentioned as original with that city is the calling of the man who prepares unripe fruit for market. The price paid in the Parisian market for fruit early in the season is sufficiently extravagant to justify care being taken in its preparation which would not be profitable in this country. The earlier the fruit is on the market the better it pays, and the Parisian trader is not slow to recognize the fact.

Getting Fruit Ready for Market.

Fruit which is of necessity plucked green for shipping purposes also comes under his care, and a recognized profession is that of the man who makes it ready for the market. The method is to first sweeten and then color the article to be treated, so as to make it resemble in taste and appearance the fruit when fully ripened. The sweetening is accomplished by inserting the needle of a hypodermic syringe, which has been filled with a thin solution of glucose, under the skin of the piece of fruit and injecting a little of the sweet mixture. The insertion of the needle is always made near the stem, so that the orifice will escape notice.

If the fruit is hard it is gently pinched until it assumes the softness found when fully ripe and is then ready to be colored. This is done with a soft brush dipped in some harmless coloring matter of the necessary shade and the fruit is then set aside to dry for the market. As every individual piece has to be handled in this manner it can be seen that it only pays to treat the most expensive varieties of fruit. Plums, peaches and certain varieties of tropical fruits are those generally prepared.

Still another profession, this time a fraudulent one, which exists in France, is the selling of counterfeit ortolans and preparing them for the market. The ortolan is found at its best in southern France and Spain and is getting scarcer and scarcer each year. In consequence they are hunted much more perseveringly than before and more and more imitations of the bird are being placed upon the market. As the ortolan retails in the market at about \$1.50 in American money, the art of counterfeiting them is quite a profitable one and sparrows and various small song birds are pressed into service for the purpose.

The ortolan is generally taken alive and fattened for the market on special kinds of grain and the counterfeiter merely secures some bird of about the same size to sell as the genuine article, and by fattening it on the same variety of grain for several weeks he manages to impart to its flesh something of the same quality as that of the ortolan. Some secret method of flavoring the flesh is also in vogue, in order to make it more nearly approach the taste of the genuine article. The ortolan is, moreover, of a peculiarly round shape and the imitation requires pressing into the necessary form after it has been killed and dressed for the market.

Pet Dog Barbers.

To return to our own country, it is only necessary to consider some of the professions existing in New York to find those sufficiently curious. One of these, which at present is mostly in the hands of women, is the washing and dressing of pet dogs for their owners. Some owners of valuable poodles and pugs wish to have their animals cared for every day and the dog attendant or barber has, in consequence, sprung into being. The unearthly patterns clipped in the wool of French poodles need constant sewing to prevent their becoming seedy and the dog barber is a scientist very unlike the stable hand who clips the dogs in cities like St. Louis. Some owners of white poodles wish their dogs blondined before taking them out for exercise, and it is needless to say that the occupation is one to which many women are to the manner born. The hair of the dogs is often curled to suit some caprice of the owner and there are numerous foibles in connection with the treatment of the animals which give employment to a large number of persons. Some people keep special attendants for certain treasured animals, but in the case of show animals there is nothing singular about the fact. It

is when a maid is kept to care for nothing else than the two ill-tempered pugs or surly poodles that the profession may be called singular.

The professional attendant in a Turkish bath house is no longer a novelty, but it was left for an enterprising horseman of Chicago to invent the custom of giving Turkish baths to horses. This genius established a complete equine bath house near the Hawthorne track last summer, and, by charging \$5 a bath, he expected to reap a fortune in a short time. There were a number of horses at the track which were behind in their training, and the inventor figured out that by subjecting them to the sweating and steaming process of the Turkish bath he could reduce their surplus fat and save a good deal of time for their owners. There was some flaw in his reasoning, however, and the bath house failed through lack of patronage.

With the number of pencil-sharpening machines on the market it would look as if there were little room for a man who makes his living by sharpening lead pencils for church meetings, political conventions and the like, yet a Chicago man makes a comfortable competency in this way. He is mostly employed by ladies of the women's rights persuasion, who require a number of pencils for their numerous meetings and have not developed the art of sharpening them themselves. The women, moreover, do not wish to go to the expense of paying several dollars in a lump sum for a pencil-sharpening machine, figuring out that it is cheaper to pay the man \$1 every week for the same office.

Underground Workers

According to a recent computation made in France, there are 4,355,000 persons of both sexes who spend their lives procuring from the earth such indispensable products as coal, metals and salt, as well as others, like precious stones, which cannot be classed among the necessities, says the New York Sun. Most of these toilers spend their working hours far below the surface. Not many years ago the treatment which thousands of them received, and particularly the women and children who toiled in the deep coal mines in Great Britain, became a public scandal. The adoption of humane laws led to a change in the disgraceful conditions under which they worked and lived. The miners of the world have now a pleasant existence compared with that which they led a few decades ago.

In no part of the world are there so many underground workers, in proportion to total population, as in the South African republic. These workers are in the gold mines and practically all are negroes under white overseers. The worst thing about their life is that the Boers of the Transvaal have never consented to suppress the liquor saloons near the mines. The Transvaal government has drawn large revenue from these saloons by means of a heavy license tax. The result is that most of the black miners have spent a large part of their earnings in drink and many murders, robberies and other crimes have occurred.

Thousands of black men also work in the deep diamond mines at Kimberley. The most peculiar feature of their employment is that during the term of their contract they are prisoners. They live inside of a large compound, surrounded by a high board fence, on which guards are mounted, as on the walls of Sing Sing prison. Every morning they are marched out to the mines and every night they are marched back again. Inside the compound are the rude cabins in which they sleep and here and there are shops where they may buy everything they require. Liquor, however, is kept away



from them and so the years spent in the mines are far more profitable to them in every way than is the case among the gold miners.

The United Kingdom has over one-tenth of all the subterranean workers in the world. They are mainly engaged in the coal and iron mines of western and central England and south Scotland and in the tin mines of Cornwall. Many of the iron and coal mines have now reached great depths and the day is not far distant when some of them will be abandoned, as it will be cheaper to import than to sink to greater depths for mineral.

The United Kingdom has nearly twice as many miners as there are in the United States. Germany also gives work to more miners than this country employs, and yet this country turns out a great deal more iron and coal than either of those kingdoms. The reason why we obtain a far greater product with a much smaller mining force is that we use a great deal of improved mining machinery, so that, though we pay the highest wages, the cost of mining is less in this country than in most European lands.

Reflections of a Bachelor

New York Press: The average woman does a lot of foolish things just to see if a certain man will care.

A woman that is too tender-hearted to kill a mouse won't think a thing of putting perfumery on a baby.

The fact that a woman marries a man at all is generally proof that she doesn't know as much as he does.

Before a girl is engaged she thinks all the men are alike; after she has been married a year, she thinks they are all different.

When a man gets married, no matter what a poor thing he is, there is always a woman somewhere to wonder what he ever saw in her.

As soon as two people have a baby all its relatives begin to quarrel over what its name shall be; by the time this is settled they begin to quarrel over which it looks most like; by the time they get this settled, there is generally another baby.

Washington's Tombs--- Three Burial Places

Within the precincts of Mount Vernon, the beautiful estate once occupied by George Washington and now preserved by the nation in his memory, are three spots where the first president has been buried. The tomb which is now pointed out to visitors as containing the remains of Washington is not that in which the body was laid on the date of his burial, December 18, 1799. Twice since then the coffin has been moved, but never away from Mount Vernon.

The old family vault in which the body of Washington was first interred was situated about three hundred yards to the south of the mansion, in the side of a deep dell, surrounded by great trees, and was simply a narrow excavation in the bank of earth, arched over with brick and covered with deep sod. Washington, before his death, contemplated the building of a new vault, and had selected the spot where he wished it located, but the end came suddenly, the new vault had not even been begun, and the body was buried in the old tomb. Here it remained until an attempted desecration. A man broke into the vault, but was discovered just as he was making off with a skull and some bones. The robber had found the wrong body, for these relics formed no part of the remains of Washington.

The second sepulcher was made in the south side of the steep hill, near a small wooded ravine, on the site especially selected by Washington. The excavation was walled in with brick and arched over at the height of eight feet above the level of the ground. The tomb itself was surrounded by a wall of brickwork twelve feet high and guarded in front by an iron gateway, opening a few feet in front of the vault door.

The body of Washington was moved into this tomb in 1831 and remained there undisturbed until 1837, when John Struthers of Philadelphia made and presented to the relatives of Washington a marble sarco-

phagus for the better protection of the corpse. When this sarcophagus was brought to the tomb it was found to be too large to pass through the iron doorway of the vault and on examination the vault itself was discovered to be so poorly protected against moisture that its dampness would destroy in a short time the texture of the marble and deface the richness and beauty of the exterior sculpturing. It was then determined to build a suitable receptacle for the sarcophagus on the right of the entrance to the gate, outside of the vault. This was accordingly done.

On the morning of Saturday, October 7, 1837, all things being in readiness for the removal of the remains of Washington to their new resting place, lights were procured and the vault was entered. Mr. William Strickland, who assisted at the reinterment, gives the following account of what then took place:

"Accompanied by Major Lewis and his son we entered the vault door. The coffin containing the remains of Washington was in the extreme back part of the vault, and to remove the case containing the leaden receptacle it was found necessary to put aside the coffins that were piled up between it and the doorway. After clearing the passageway, the case, which was decayed, was stripped off and the lead of the lid was discovered to have sunk very considerably from head to foot, so much so as to form a curved line of four to five inches in its whole length. This settlement of the metal had perhaps caused the soldering of the joints to give way about the upper or widest part of the coffin. At the request of Major Lewis this fractured part was turned over on the lower part of the lid, exposing to view a head and breast of large dimensions, which appeared by the dim light of the candles to have suffered but little from the effects of time. The eye-sockets were large and deep and the breadth across the temples, together with the forehead, appeared of unusual size. There was no appearance of grave clothes; the chest was broad; the color was dark and had the appearance of dried flesh and skin adhering closely to the bones. We saw no hair, nor was there any offensive odor from the body. A hand was laid upon the head and instantly removed; the lead of the lid was restored to its place; the body, raised by six men, was carried and laid in the marble coffin and the ponderous cover being put on and set in cement, it was sealed from our sight on Saturday, October 7, 1837."

On the lid of this marble sarcophagus is sculptured the American shield suspended over our festooned flags. Perched upon the superior bar of the shield and forming the crest is an eagle with outspread wings. Below this design and cut in the marble is the name "Washington."

The remains of Mrs. Washington now rest in a similar sarcophagus of marble, plainly sculptured and situated on the left of the gateway or entrance to the tomb.

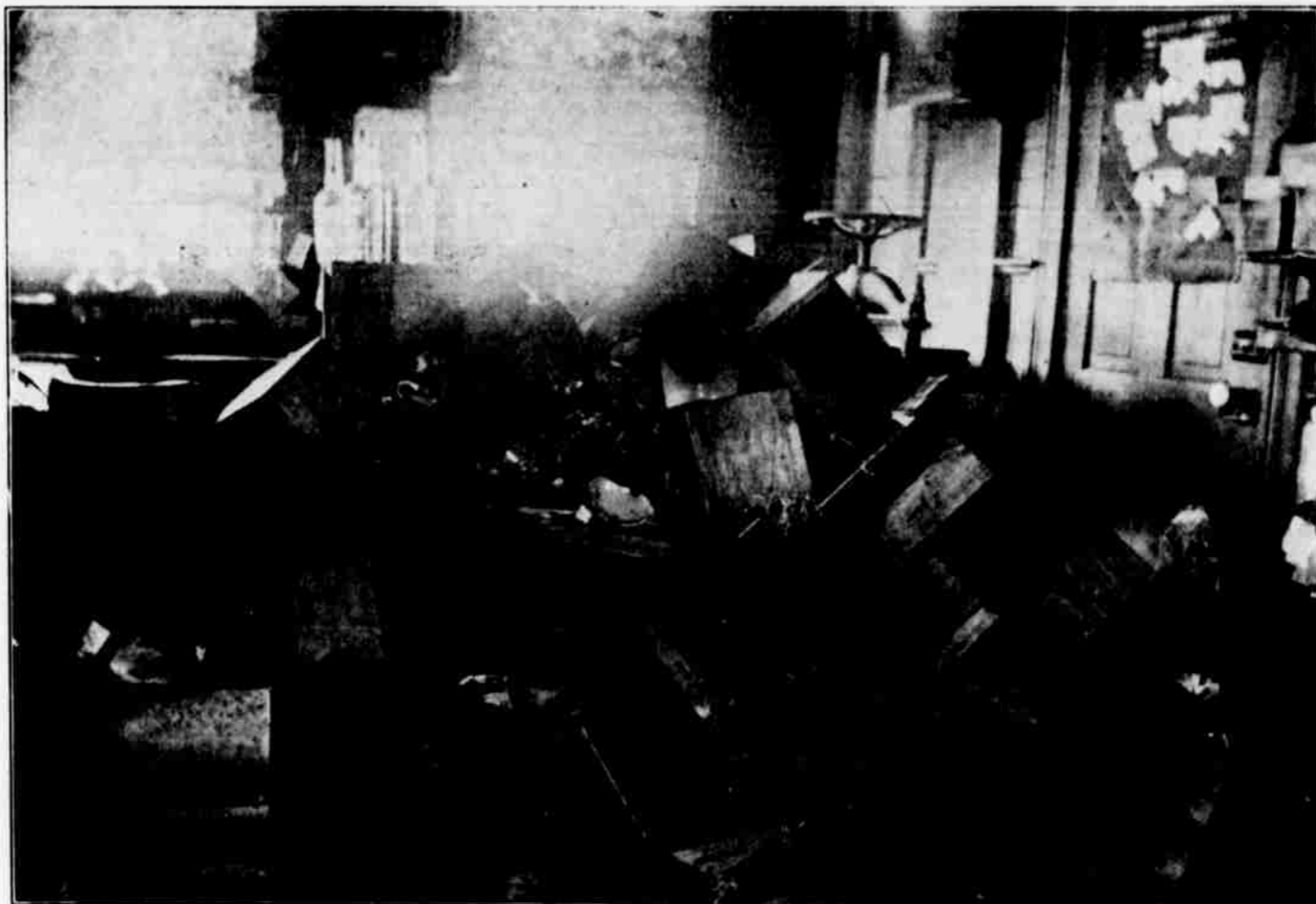
Loves

Detroit Journal: It was a beautiful evening in June. The waters of the drainage canal rippled against the prow of their gondola, virtually as any other waters might. The occasion invited confidences.

"Did you marry your first love?" asked the guest.

"Yes," replied Helene, naively, while her color deepened perceptibly, "my first, third, fifth and seventh, thus far! Of course, I'm not in the least superstitious, but there certainly is luck in odd numbers!"

As the gloom gathered the gondoliers sang Italian love ballads, the abattoirs used their smoke consumers, and altogether it was quite like Venice.



INTERIOR OF THE EXPRESS OFFICE AT TEKAMAH, Neb., AFTER AN ATTACK BY FOLLOWERS OF MRS. CARRIE NATION.