

New Immigration Act.

On July 1, 1907, the new Immigration act of February 20, 1907, went into effect. As this law is to represent, for the present at least, our policy with regard to the admission of aliens to the United States, it is well to see clearly at this time what changes the new act has made in previous legislation, and what the probable effects will be. . . . The new act is weak, remarks Robert DeC. Ward, in North American Review, in that the excellent "poor physique" clause is largely nullified by giving the secretary of commerce and labor authority to admit physically defective aliens under bonds (except in cases of tuberculosis or loathsome and dangerous contagious diseases). All past experience goes to show that such bonds are useless. All common-sense goes to show that a physically defective and degenerate alien is undesirable, whether he be a public charge or not. Better to have 100,000 aliens spending all their lives in American almshouses, insane asylums or prisons than to have 500 physically weak, defective and degenerate aliens spending their lives in sweat shops or factories, and reproducing their kind, to hand down these qualities of degeneracy and of poor physique to succeeding generations. We might establish a physical standard for admission to this country like that of the United States army or navy. That would be too high. We might require every alien to have a physique sufficiently rugged to enable him to work at hard manual labor, whether he be a clerk or a painter or a farm hand. That, also, might be too severe. The very least we can do is to establish a physical standard such that any one so weak, degenerate or defective as to have his ability to support himself thereby interfered with should be excluded.

The conservative element in China has been greatly upset by two incidents which occurred almost simultaneously. The "holy duke, Yen," who is a lineal descendant of Confucius in the seventy-sixth generation, visited Peking for the express purpose of opposing the government plan for a memorial university to his great ancestor. He expressed his belief that the institution should teach modern languages and modern science, as well as the Confucian sacred books, which are the pillars of the old Chinese learning. The other incident, even more shocking to tradition, was the visit of Count Otani, the abbot of one of the most famous Buddhist monasteries in Japan. He represents the advanced wing of the sect which advocates the marriage of the priesthood, tolerates meat eating, and accepts modern science. He has his countess with him, and traveled in that most dangerous of "foreign devil wagons," an automobile.

Our attention has just been called to the case of a diabolically clever young man in Iowa who invented a novel method of discontinuing a love affair. He hit upon the scheme of pretending to be dead. He got in a coffin and had himself photographed with a border of flowers around him, and sent the photograph to the betrothed. She believes that he is in his grave and eaten by worms—and we congratulate her upon her sorrowful condition, for it is nothing to the sorrow she would suffer if married to the unscrupulously inventive genius.

The very large number of drownings now being reported brings out the familiar counsel as to the importance of learning to swim. It happens, however, that in many of the more notable cases reported the victims were good swimmers and succumbed to their daring in tempting fate. The reckless swimmer exposes himself to more dangers than those who cannot swim at all. The landlubbers can at least keep ashore.

Most of the fine American vessels that fought the Spanish war in one round without loss of wind have been sent to the scrap pile or the museum as back numbers, or at least are in the repair shop, where the government expert is looking them over and shaking his head. In building a modern warship the work must be hurried along as much as possible lest the vessel be out of date before it is completed.

A duel to the death between automobiles must not only interest our numerous leisure classes who are always waiting around in anticipation of a dog fight, but also afford an impressive exhibit in our unparalleled prosperity.

A Denver woman who said she "could die eating cucumbers" was found by the coroner lifeless, but with a cucumber in her hand and a happy smile on her face. Her record for veracity is unsurpassed.

Cuba is thinking of adopting our American currency. It would be convenient for American travelers if all the rest of the world would do the same.

Now that fashionable women have taken to going up in balloons in Paris, high society is getting higher than before.

There were fewer strikes in this country in 1905 than in any year since 1892, if that is of any interest to you.

The State Capital

Matters of General Interest FROM Nebraska's Seat of Government

Coal Rates Complained Of.

The state railroad commission has filed a complaint with the interstate commerce commission charging that interstate rates charged by the Union Pacific railroad on coal shipped from Rock Springs and Hanna, Wyoming, are exorbitant. It is charged that a blanket rate of \$4.50 a ton is charged in Nebraska on Rock Springs coal and a blanket rate of \$3.50 on coal shipped from Hanna. Rates to Kansas for a greater distance are \$4 a ton on Rock Springs coal. In addition to the complaint the commission submits to the interstate commerce commission proposed rates. It is said that very little Wyoming coal is now used in Nebraska because the company will not ship the product of the mines which it controls to this state, and that the railroad has made lower rates to the west, and for this reason the coal is all going in that direction. The Union Pacific road also consumes a large amount of the product on its lines.

The complaint of the commission states that the following rates are now charged: Rock Springs to Cheyenne, 293 miles, \$2.30; to Pine Bluff, 328 miles, \$3.75; to Smead, Neb. (near state line), 341 miles, \$4.50; thence on to Omaha, 809 miles, and all intermediate points, \$4.50.

To Kansas points from Rock Springs: Cheyenne to Denver, 400 miles, \$2.30; to Kansas-Colorado state line, 592 miles, \$3.75; Weeskan, Kan., 592 miles, and intermediate points, to Salina, 856 miles, \$4.00.

The following are the rates proposed by the Nebraska commission on coal from Rock Springs: To Kearney, Neb., and all branches north and south, and to Omaha, \$3.25 on lump; \$3 on pea; \$2.75 on slack; from Hershey to Elm Creek, \$3 lump; \$2.75 on pea; \$2.25 on slack; from Smead to Sidney, \$2.50 on lump; \$2.25 on pea; \$2 on slack.

The proposed rate on Hanna coal is as follows: From Grand Island east, including the main line and branches north and south, \$2.75 on lump; \$2.50 on pea; \$2.25 on slack; from Cozad to Alda, \$2.50 on lump; \$2.25 on pea; \$2 on slack; from Brule to Smead, \$3 on lump; \$1.75 on pea; \$1.50 on slack.

Railroad Brought to Time.

C. N. Carpenter of York has won a signal victory against the Northwestern and Missouri Pacific railroads and got possession of a carload of coal which had been lying in the Northwestern yards at York for a month with demurrage charges piling up against some one.

This carload also had a charge of \$5 which the Missouri Pacific placed against it for reloading the coal from its own car into another. The coal was shipped from Indian Territory and was transferred to the Northwestern road. Carpenter refused to accept the carload and pay the extra \$5, and the railroad agents, with their usual assurance, declared he would pay the \$5.

Carpenter came to Lincoln at the time the coal arrived in York. He appealed to the state commission. The commissioners took the matter up with the Missouri Pacific, but the road declared it would do nothing. Carpenter went home, but came back and filed a formal complaint. He stated in his complaint that he knew more about the methods of the roads than they would care to have made public. He insisted that he would not pay the \$5 and the demurrage charges and he asked for a peremptory order to compel the railroad to give him the car of coal.

The commission heard the complaint, and when about to make the order desired were informed by the attorney for the Northwestern railroad that the matter would be fixed up between the Missouri Pacific and the shipper. Carpenter thanked the commission and went home to unload his coal. He paid out a great deal more than the \$5 in fighting his case, but he won out and will not be bothered by similar charges after this.

Profit on Butter Fat.

In a letter to the state railway commission D. E. White, government expert on dairying, stated that the net profit on butter fat is \$7.40 a hundred pounds. He claims the creameries make this profit and his estimate is based on an estimate of 18 cents a pound for the product and an expense of \$5.35 for manufacturing. The price estimated for butter in these calculations is 25 cents a pound. Mr. White also includes copies of telegrams exchanged between Ed Webster, chief of the dairy bureau.

Terminal Tax in Tennessee.

Henry T. Clarke, member of the State Railway commission and of the legislature last winter, has received a marked copy of a publication showing that the state of Tennessee is going to adopt the principles of the terminal tax law in the distribution of its railroad property. The article states that Attorney General Cates has given an opinion that such a distribution is legal and his opinion will be followed by the State Board of Assessment. Mr. Clarke fathered the terminal tax bill in the house.

Grain Rates to be Lowered.

The Nebraska Railway commission will enter an order reducing the freight rates charged for transportation of grain in Nebraska 10 per cent. This will be the first formal action of the new board in the rate controversy. The law specifies that when an order affecting rates is made, the roads shall have a space of thirty days in which to file their objections for the information of the commissioners, after which the rate goes into effect unless taken into the courts or the board makes amendment of the order.

Special Rate Orders.

A number of special orders were authorized by the state railway commission. Two contractors of Blair, Gilbert C. Himes and Herman Shields, had complained of the 3 1/2-cent rate from Fremont to Blair on the Northwestern. That road was ordered to put into effect a 2-cent rate. Permission to put in the following short distance passenger rates was granted the Burlington: Crawford to Omaha, \$9.46; Ord to Alliance, \$4.18; Hoag to Lincoln, 80 cents; Beatrice to Lincoln, Burnham and Benton, 80 cents; Putnam to Lincoln, Burnham and Benton, 94 cents; Blue Springs to Lincoln, Burnham and Benton, \$1.08; Wymore to Lincoln and Burnham, \$1.07; Garrison to Lincoln, 88 cents; Bellwood to Lincoln, \$1.06; Fremont to Lincoln, \$1.04; Columbus to Lincoln, \$1.25. The Burlington was also authorized to make a rate of 5 cents per hundred on ice from York to Kearney, and a rate of 6 cents on stone from Blue Springs and Wymore to Central City.

Land Office Report.

The report of the southern section of the United States land office of this state in its report for the month of July shows that there were fourteen entries for homesteads, under the Kinkaid act mostly. Only four final proofs were made. Two entries were cash entries, two were for 560-acre tracts each, four were for sections as allowed under the Kinkaid act, and two others were for 480 acres each. All these homesteads were in the four southwest counties, Hayes, Hitchcock, Dundy and Chase. The two cash entries were relinquishment claims that had been bought out. This can be done and the land paid for at the rate of \$1.25 an acre, provided it has been resided on continuously for fourteen months. This law will only apply under the old homestead act, the Kinkaid act especially denying the right to pay in advance. There were no public sales of isolated tracts. In June there were several of these, but none were applied for in July. Under a new ruling these tracts cannot be bought for purposes of speculation. Oath must be taken that the buyer intends to live on the land. As a man can only make application once for the sale of these isolated tracts there is little incentive to ask for a public sale.

Complain of Lumber Theft.

Elmer E. Brown of Harvard called on Attorney General Thompson to bring him evidence concerning an alleged unlawful combination between two lumber dealers in his city—the J. H. Yost Lumber company and S. J. Rice. Brown claimed that these men sold lumber at exactly the same price and that lumber dealers in neighboring towns refused to sell him lumber at all, though he offered the spot cash. Brown had already written the attorney general and the latter referred the case to County Attorney Stiner of Clay Center, who wrote the state legal department that he would investigate at once. Brown also claims these men sell coal as they do lumber and that last winter John Bain, an independent coal dealer, could not buy coal from C. B. Havens at Omaha, though he had been buying from him for years, because he sold coal 50 cents cheaper on the ton. Bain got his coal from Denver, though others, Brown said, bought of Havens.

Band for State Fair.

"The first band in the world, better than Innes," said C. H. Rudge of the board of managers of the state fair when he was asked about the Liberator band of New York that had been engaged to give concerts at the state fair. This famous band promises to be one of the best drawing attractions the state fair has ever had. In addition to a band of fifty pieces the organization has with it several grand opera singers. The fair management feels that it is fortunate in being able to present this attraction to the people of the state.

Dead Man on Ticket.

The primary ballot for use in the coming state primary will contain the name of a dead man, W. W. Elliott of Center. Mr. Elliott filed as a candidate for district clerk in his district, and on the 7th he was drowned. Secretary of State Junkin has finally concluded to leave the name on the ticket, as he does not know what else to do. Mr. Elliott had no opposition.

Uniform Reports Wanted.

S. L. Lupton, representing the Interstate Commerce commission, will shortly be in Lincoln to confer with the State Railway commission regarding a uniform report to be demanded of the common carriers. The commission notified the local commission of the coming visit of Mr. Lupton.

Motion to Remand Express Case.

Attorney General Thompson has filed a motion in the federal court to have remanded the suit against the express companies involving the Sibley law. Mr. Thompson claims the state has jurisdiction in the matter.

New Game Birds Imported.

Chief Game Warden George L. Carter has ordered one hundred pairs of Hungarian partridges and will parcel them out over the state wherever money can be raised to pay for them. These birds are quite similar to the ordinary, "Bob White" quail, only they are about twice the size of the quail. The birds will cost Mr. Carter \$4.50 per pair and he will do the work of shipping them out for nothing. The people of Gordon have raised \$150 for securing part of these birds and at Merriam residents have raised \$100 more.

Lumber Dealers Pocket Profit.

The complaint is being made that the law providing for a 15 per cent reduction in freight rates on lumber and other commodities has not resulted in any decrease in the price of lumber sold to the consumer. One of the large lumber dealers said he did not intend to make any reduction because of a lower freight rate, but would take advantage of the law to fatten up his own purse. When this bill was passed by the legislature it was argued that the consumer would get the benefit of any reduction in freight rates.

NEW THINGS IN DRESS. NEW ROUND VEIL. DEMI-TOILETTE WITH KINOMO SLEEVES. NEW HAT WITH HIGH CROWNS OF FLOWERS.

The demi-toilette for evening wear is of the first importance at this time. The French demi-toilette resembles a tea gown only in so much that it is picturesque and old-world. It is not in the very least untidy or floppy, and even an expert in such matters would find it difficult to clearly define the difference between it and a dinner gown suitable for ceremonious occasions. The difference is very subtle and yet—ever present! Possibly it is a distinction which owes much to the arrangement of the hair and to the ornaments worn. Some wonderfully lovely gowns of this order have been made this season of fine silk gauze enriched with ribbon embroideries, or with borderie Anglaise carried out in delicate pastel tints. The latter is a distinct novelty and entirely satisfactory when designed and executed by a master hand. For example, take a flowing skirt of creamy gauze, lavishly decorated in panels with borderie Anglaise worked in fine silver threads. On either side of these panels there were shaped insertions of Maltese lace—of exactly the same tint as the muslin—and at the extreme hem of the skirt five frounces of Valenciennes; while the bodice was arranged in picture fashion, having a large fascia of Valenciennes, which crossed in front and tucked away in the folded waistband of palest liberty satin. The wide Japanese sleeves were made of the Maltese lace, and underneath there were the daintiest little puffs and frills of Valenciennes. The peach-colored waistband boasted two very long ends at the left side, and these ends were drawn through a handsome buckle of gun metal set with small diamonds. It would be impossible to describe the poetic charm of this gown, and the dark buckle, with its brilliant frame, supplied just the right note.

The sleeveless coat of taffetas is entering a successful reign. This picturesque garment is almost always worn with muslin or lace gowns, and nine times out of ten the silk is of a dark and rather somber color. These silk coats are a short three-quarter length and semi-sack, back and front, and they are rarely closed in front, but are confined by chenille or silk ornaments, or, in some cases, they are lightly laced from throat to breast. The most conspicuous of Fashion's new edicts will be the long coat, longer than they have been. These coats look equally well in both cloth and linen, and have charm when supplied with the square sleeve, the elbow sleeve, or the ordinary coat sleeve. It is, indeed, a highly adaptable garment, upon which we propose to bestow our very best attentions from now until October at least, and this I prophesy as other wise people would have prophesied, because I know.

But I am forgetting the novelty of the hour, and the like, being rare, should be treated with greater respect. White flowers allied to white leaves, and looking for all the world like the conventional decoration of the conventional wedding-cake, are upon the hats which express the last word of Fashion. White lilies of the valley allied to white rose-leaves I have met forming a thick wreath round a bell-shaped hat of brown straw lined with white chip; large white garden lilies with white leaves upstand in bold relief from a shape of purple straw, and white roses and white leaves encircle the broad brim of a hat of dull green lined with black glaze. Here is novelty indeed—and for so much, and no more, I commend it.

Apropos summer hats—very high

His Trouble.

A small, quiet-looking man, smoking a large cigar, sat by the side of a medium-sized automobile that was drawn out of the road as a large touring car came along, driven by a man with an interrogatory aspect. The man in the touring car slowed up and leaned over. "How long have you been here?" "About two hours." "Can't you find out what the matter is?" "No." "Trouble with spark plug?" "Think not." "How are your batteries?" "O. K." "Haven't got a short-circuit, have you?" "Oh, no." "Got any gasoline in your tank?" "Plenty." "Would you mind telling me, sir, just what's the matter with that machine of yours?"

In answer, the man pointed to a large red farm house in the distance.

crowns are slowly but surely creeping toward us. Just at present these high crowns are chiefly arranged in flowers, but a little later we shall see a revival of the high "flower-pot" crown which used to be fashionable when the "Grecian bend" afforded fruitful topics for music-hall singers! It seems a thousand pities that we should think of adopting such a fashion as this, the hat crowns of this year are so ideal and so infinitely becoming, and the "flower-pot" crown is so peculiarly inartistic. Unhappily it is no use to protest against Fashion's dictates, but let us hope that this revival, when it comes, will be short-lived, and that there will be found leaders of Society with sufficient taste and courage to protest against an ugly mode just as they protested against the meaningless short waist which is already dying the death. It is quite certain that nine women out of ten look best when something rich and dark is placed near the face, not an entire black, or dark, but necessarily, but one with a lining of full tone and in a becoming tint. The very newest and most popular idea with regard to cloche hats is the flat lining of black, or dark hue, satin. As a rule, this lining does not reach quite to the edge of the hat, an inch of light straw being left plain. Black satin or taffetas is wonderfully effective



A Novel Serge Costume.

tive in an ivory straw cloche or one of Tuscan; rich bottle-green satin is used in the same way, and also dark Lancelot blue, nut-brown and dark violet, the latter color being quite a rage of the moment. For example, take an ivory straw cloche which boasts a wide, rather high, crown, and a large drooping brim, the front of the latter being shorter than the back. And now just another word about the new circular veils of which we spoke in a former letter. The new blue spotted net—the blue which is exactly like cornflower-blue dusted over with ivory powder—is delightful flattery to a clear complexion, when the veil is edged all round with an inch-wide band of ribbon velvet. These veils ought to be quite long—at least three yards—and of the finest and lightest net. They are pinned round the cloche hat and thrown back from the face, making the most perfect frame it is possible to imagine.

"See that house out there?" he asked.

"Yes, sir." "Well, sir, there isn't anything the matter with this machine, but since noon my wife has been in that house kissing her sister's first baby goodbye. When she gets through, if you are not over a thousand miles away, will leave your address, I will telegraph or cable you the glad news at my own expense."—Collier's Weekly.

Why They Don't Speak.

First Saleslady (disguising her pleasure)—What do you think, Mayme? A gentleman friend of mine sent my photo to that newspaper that's running the beauty contest! Didn't he have the nerve, though? Second Saleslady—And the worst of it is them practical jokers never apologize.—Puck.

Would Mean Immense Saving.

Two hundred and fifty million dollars a year would be saved if electricity were to supplant steam entirely.

ARE PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS NOSTRUMS?

To one not qualified, and few laymen are, to discriminate intelligently between physicians' prescriptions, proprietary medicines and nostrums, it may seem little short of a crime to hint even that physicians' prescriptions are in any manner related to nostrums; nevertheless, an impartial examination of all the facts in the case leads irresistibly to the conclusion that every medicinal preparation compounded and dispensed by a physician is, in the strict sense of the word, a nostrum, and that the average, ready-prepared proprietary remedy is superior to the average specially-prepared physicians' prescription.

What is a nostrum? According to the Standard Dictionary a nostrum is "a medicine the composition of which is kept a secret." Now, when a physician compounds and dispenses with his own hands a remedy for the treatment of a disease—and it is authoritatively stated that probably 60 per cent. of all physicians' prescriptions in this country are so dispensed—the name and quantities of the ingredients which constitute the remedy are not made known to the patient. Hence, since its composition is kept a secret by the physician, the remedy or prescription is unquestionably, in the true meaning of the word, a Simon-pure nostrum. Furthermore, the prescription compounded by the average physician is more than likely to be a perfect jumble—replete with therapeutic, physiologic and chemical incompatibilities and bearing all the earmarks of pharmaceutical incompetence; for it is now generally admitted that unless a physician has made a special study of pharmacy and passed some time in a drug store for the purpose of gaining a practical knowledge of modern pharmaceutical methods, he is not fitted to compound remedies for his patients. Moreover, a physician who compounds his own prescriptions not only deprives the pharmacist of his just emoluments, but he endangers the lives of patients; for it is only by the detection and elimination of errors in prescriptions by clever, competent prescribers that the safety of the public can be effectually shielded from the criminal blunders of ignorant physicians.

Nor can it be said that the average physician is any more competent to formulate a prescription than he is to compound it. When memorized or directly copied from a book of "favorite prescriptions by famous physicians," or from some text-book or medical journal, the prescription may be all that it should be. It is only when the physician is required to originate a formula on the spur of the moment that his incompetency is distinctly evident. Seemingly, however, the physicians of the United States are little worse than the average British physician; for we find Dr. James Burnett, lecturer on Practical Materia Medica and Pharmacy, Edinburgh, lamenting in the Medical Magazine the passing of the prescription and bemoaning the fact that seldom does he find a "final man" able to devise a prescription even in "good contracted Latin."

And what, it may be asked, is the status of the written prescription—the prescription that is compounded and dispensed by the pharmacist—is it, too, a nostrum? It may be contended that the patient, with the written formula in his possession, may learn the character of the remedy prescribed. So, possibly, he might if he understood Latin and were a physician or a pharmacist, but as he usually possesses no professional training and cannot read Latin, the prescription is practically a dead secret to him. Furthermore, the average prescription is so badly written and so greatly abbreviated that even the pharmacist, skilled as he usually is in deciphering medical hieroglyphs, is constantly obliged to interview prescribers to find out what actually has been prescribed. It may also be contended, that inasmuch as the formula is known to both physician and pharmacist the prescription cannot therefore be a secret. But with equal truth it might be contended that the formula of any so-called nostrum is not a secret since it is known to both proprietor and manufacturer; for it must not be forgotten that, according to reliable authority, 95 per cent. of the proprietors of so-called patent medicines prepared in this country have their remedies made for them by large, reputable manufacturing pharmacists. But even should a patient be able to recognize the names of the ingredients mentioned in a formula he would only know half the story. It is seldom, for instance, that alcohol is specifically mentioned in a prescription, for it is usually masked in the form of tinctures and fluid extracts, as are a great many other substances. It is evident, therefore, that the ordinary formulated prescription is, to the average patient, little less than a secret remedy or nostrum.

On the other hand, the formulae of nearly all the proprietary medicines that are exploited exclusively to the medical profession as well as those of a large percentage of the proprietary remedies that are advertised to the public (the so-called patent medicines) are published in full. Under the Food and Drugs Act, every medical preparation entering interstate commerce is now required to have the proportion or quantity of alcohol, opium, cocaine and other habit-forming or harmful ingredients which it contains plainly printed on the label. As physicians' prescriptions seldom or never enter interstate commerce they are practically exempt under the law. And if it be necessary for the public to know the composition of proprietary remedies, as it is contended by those who through ig-

Diplomatic Salesman.

An elderly woman entered a shop and asked to be shown some tablecloths. The salesman brought a pile and showed them to her, but she said she had seen those elsewhere—something suited her. "Haven't you anything new?" she asked. The man then brought another pile and showed them to her. "These are the newest patterns," he said. "You will notice the edge runs right round the border and the center is in the middle." "Dear me, yes. I will take half a dozen of them," said the woman.

Wit.

A witty man is a dramatic performer; in process of time he can no more exist without applause than he can exist without air; if his audience be small, or if they are inattentive, or if a new wit defrauds him of any portion of his admiration, it is all over with him—his sicisms and is extinguished. The applause is the theater on which he performs. It is so essential to him that he must obtain it at the expense of decency, friendship and good feeling.—Sydney Smith.

norance or for mercenary reasons are opposing the sale of all household remedies, why is it not equally necessary for patients to know the composition of the remedy prescribed by a physician? Does any sane person believe that the opium in a physician's prescription is less potent or less likely to create a drug habit than the opium in a proprietary medicine? As a matter of fact, more opium-addicts and cocaine-fetters have been made through the criminal carelessness of ignorant physicians than by any other means.

Unquestionably, there are a number of proprietary remedies on the market the sales of which should be prohibited, and no doubt they will be when the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act are rigidly enforced; many are frauds, pure and simple, and some are decidedly harmful. Of the average proprietary remedy, however, it may truthfully be said that it is distinctly better than the average physicians' prescription; for not only is its composition less secret, but it is prepared for the proprietor by reputable manufacturing pharmacists in magnificently equipped laboratories and under the supervision and advice of able chemists, competent physicians and skillful pharmacists. It should not be considered strange, therefore, that so many physicians prefer to prescribe these ready-prepared proprietary remedies rather than trust those of their own devising.

JUST THE SAME AS CURRENCY.

Third Son Felt He Had Nothing to Reproach Himself With.

William Knoepfel, of St. Louis, has invented and hopes to patent a secret plying method for the cure of baldness. "A genuine cure for baldness," said Mr. Knoepfel the other day, should make a man very rich. Why, men grow rich on fake cures. It is amazing, it really is, what fakes some of these cures are. Yet there's money in them." Mr. Knoepfel gave a loud, scornful laugh. "In their crookedness they remind me," he said, "of the third son of the old eccentric. Perhaps you have heard the story? Well, an old eccentric died and left his fortune equally to his three sons. But the will contained a strange proviso. Each heir was to place \$100 in the coffin immediately before the interment. A few days after the interment the three young men met and discussed the queer proviso and its execution. 'Well,' said the oldest son, 'my conscience is clear. I put my hundred in the coffin in clean, new notes.' 'My conscience is clear, too,' said the second son. 'I put in my hundred in gold.' 'I, too, have nothing to reproach myself with,' said the third son. 'I had no cash at the time, though; so I wrote out a check for \$300 in poor, dear father's name, placed it in the coffin and took in change the \$200 in currency that I found there.'

PUSHED THE BEAR ASIDE.

Surveyor Tells of Experience He Does Not Care to Repeat.

To walk right up to a monster bear and try to shove it out of the way and then escape without so much as a scratch is an experience of a lifetime. Harry I. Engelbright found it so a few days ago in Diamond canyon, above Washington, says a Nevada City correspondent of the Sacramento Bee. The young man, son of Congressman Engelbright, has just returned from the upper country, where he has been doing some surveying, and relates his thrilling experience. It was coming on dusk, at the close of the day's work. In the brush-lined trail he saw provisions that he thought were the hind quarters of some stray bovine. He walked up and gave the brute a shove. It came to his haunches with a snort that made his hair rise and caused him to beat a hasty retreat. The big brute looked around and then shuffled off into the woods. It was either asleep or else so busy eating ants from an old log that it failed to hear the young surveyor, whose footsteps were deadened by the thick carpet of pine needles. Later it was learned that the same bear, a monster cinnamon, had killed a dog earlier in the day. The dog ventured too close and with one blow of its paw the big beast sent it hurtling yards away, dead as a doornail.

Magnifying Choir Leader's Voice.

In the old village of Braybrook in Northamptonshire, England, is a monster trumpet, five six inches in length, and having a bell-shaped end two feet one inch in diameter. The trumpet is made up of ten rings, which in turn are made up of smaller parts. The use of this trumpet—only four of the kind are known to exist at the present day—was to magnify the voice of the leader in the choir and summon the people to the church service. At the present time neither the choir nor the service is in need of this extraordinary "musical instrument," but the vicar of the church takes care of the ancient relic and is fond of showing it to all visitors.

Plainly Exact.

A New England man tells of a prosperous Connecticut farmer, painfully exact in money matters, who married a widow of Greenwich possessing in her own right the sum of \$10,000. Shortly after the wedding a friend met the farmer, to whom he offered congratulations, at the same time observing: "It's a good thing for you, Malachi, a marriage that means \$10,000 to you." "Not quite that, Bill," said the farmer, "not quite that." "Why," exclaimed the friend, "I understood there was every cent of \$10,000 in it for you!" "I had to pay \$2 for a marriage license," said Malachi.