

brane. Some sections of the country want the rose but the rose is as bad as golden rod and hay feverites shut up in a room with roses say it is worse. In view of the prevalence of hay fever victims an odorless flower whose pollen is sticky and is not discharged in the air should be chosen. It is not to be supposed that the committee of gushers which will finally be appointed to select a national flower will consider the subject from a physiological point of view. So prosaic an argument as the pain and discomfiture of a chronic sufferer from pollen is not apt to be given the weight it deserves by a sentimental committee. However, there is another reason why the rose should not be chosen if we needs must have a national flower, though we seem to have got along very well so far without one, but like the new rich we seem to be running to emblems and insignia of a rank we have no other signs of. The many leaved rose is a hothouse, hybrid product of experiments upon the single six-leaved rose. In silhouette it is a formless jumble without grace but redeemed by superb color and odor to first rank. The national flower must be a product of the soil and must possess a graceful sculptural form like the lily of France or the lotus of Egypt. But committees are a disappointment and a snare and it will probably select a rose because of all flowers it is the most inappropriate.

Political parties are always on the lookout for a man who can carry the doubtful voters, the men who vote for men rather than party. Such a man is Theodore Roosevelt. His nomination for governor of New York is equivalent to an election. Mr. Theodore Roosevelt is a man of ideas, who, mirabile dictu, transforms them into action. He does not talk by the hour of reforming the country. He began by having a few ideas and executing them about the improvement of Brooklyn, then of New York and when the Spanish war broke out he had a vision of the cowboys he got acquainted with in his western trips dashing into a fight and immediately he made the vision a reality by resigning his position in the navy department and organizing the Rough Riders. The Tartars on the steppes of Siberia are the only riders whose mastery of a horse, whose nerve and endurance are to be compared to the cow boys of America. Disciplined by years of riding, night watches and the hardships of a ranchero's life on the prairies of Nebraska, Utah, Texas and Arkansas, the company gathered by Mr. Roosevelt had learned the hardest part of a soldier's life and he knew it. That peculiar combination of temperament and intellect which Mr. Roosevelt possesses fit him to command. To think and to do and to succeed in doing, the sequence is frequently broken and only rarely are all three united so effectively in one man as in Mr. Roosevelt. Indebted to the republican voters of New York for much preferment, he is neither a tool of the party bosses nor ungrateful for their aid. On occasion he consults them and times he does not. The impression is deeply set in the people of New York that he is honest and will have his way when their interests demand it. This impression, when thoroughly soaked into a people in regard to any candidate, will carry him into office on the shoulders of men of all parties.

It is not often that an exploration into the source of slang words and phrases and the reason for their applied meaning results in any definite satisfaction. There are a few words however, like "fresh," "snap," "green,"

"yellow," "white," and many others whose use as metaphors or the description of one thing by comparison with qualities belonging to another serves to make the impression of the first clearer. For instance, the application of fresh to something new and unseasoned is distinctly metaphorical and in the case of freshman has entered the dictionary and is in good and regular standing. "Green," as applied to a human being, represents a type tender and rural but without the positive nauseating taste of the fresh individual. The distinction is that between mere aspect and taste in the applied meaning as in the original. "Yellow," the color that all colors fade to, is well applied to jejune nations and degenerate newspapers. "White" is taken from the supposed difference in the standard between the white man and that of the red, yellow or black man. The ungenerous assumption of superiority by a dominant race is implied and its application is very apt to be threatened by very inferior specimens of the white man. Snap locks or snaffles slip into place and lock without preliminary of keys or turning and the metaphor of a very easy job with good pay and not much work is apparent. "Swipe" is an onomatopoeic of sense and feeling rather than sound. It has been preserved in the pages of Dickens who took it from the London gamin of his day. It has only in the past ten years been accepted by the English slang speaking world. When musicians talk about the color, composition, perspective and light and shade of this or that pianist's work they are as slangy as any gamin who but does what they do, and that is to use the technical terms of one calling to describe the effects produced by masters in another.

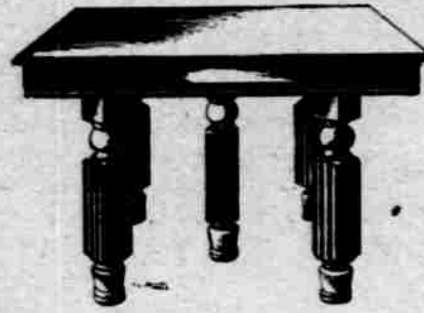
In the making of many books this one of the use and abuse, the history, and gradual transformation of a low caste word into the brahminical companionship and authority of the literary, has been neglected. I have referred to the strength of some of these newly coined phrases before. The readers of these columns will perhaps pardon a reference to the subject again. The process of manufacture is always interesting and the successive stages that a new word, or a word broken off from its original and specific significance and applied to only a spiritually related noun is worth a glance.

The interdiction of slang by parents and teachers is none the less incumbent because that fine sense of selection which comes from knowledge and experience, only those among the young who have genius, possess and rules were not made for them. Most slang is meaningless and vulgar. Children and the indiscriminating weaken and loosen their conversation to the point of dislocation when they use it freely, and it is therefore safest for these to restrict themselves to the use of words which have fought the fight and been admitted to the society of good usage.

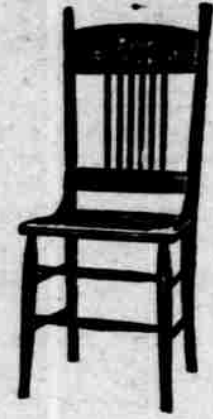
Asphalt has certain qualities of smoothness and noiselessness which recommends it to everybody whose nerves have been racked by the crashing dissonance of the streets and their offensiveness to the nose and the eye. Happiness is, for most people, the gratification of the senses and the present condition of the paving outrages three, hearing, sight and smell, and occasionally or daily, as the case may be, feeling. It is not necessary to take into account those finer souls whose happiness depends on a spiritual harmony. They are so few that neither the law, polity nor custom takes cognizance of them. But in order to keep this smoothest and most noiseless of pavements clean it is

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necessary to flood it and wash it, and we have no water except for drinking and bathing the bodies we are commanded to keep like temp'es. If asphalt will decay rapidly without water and we have not water, brick is the only attainable pavement for us. Unless it can be shown that asphalt does not need to be washed to preserve it from quick decay it would be foolish to lay it in Lincoln where water is measured out to lawns by sluggish drops and where meters have been ordered to prevent the waste of water which should be as impossible to waste as air. Mr. Humphrey's composite letter has had so much effect. If asphalt must only be used where there is water in plenty, then asphalt is not for Lincoln, which suffers more for lack of water than for honest men or commercial development or from the schemes of those who want to go to congress.

The general convention of the Episcopal church, which sits every three years, will convene in Washington on October 5, and remain in session about three weeks. The revision of the constitution and the canons of the church, which was begun some years ago, will occupy the attention of the convention, and it is hoped that the revision will be accomplished at this meeting. The attendance promises to be very large. The convention is made up of two houses; the house of bishops, and the house of deputies, which is composed of four clerical and four lay delegates from each diocese. The Woman's auxiliary holds its meetings at the same time as the convention, and there will be 1,500 in attendance. The list of clerical delegates to the convention contains the names of nearly all the leading ministers of the Episcopal church, while that of the

lay delegates shows many names prominent in the world of finance and politics. Among those who are expected to attend are ex-Senator George T. Edmunds of Vermont, now of Philadelphia; J. Pierpont Morgan of New York, Henry E. Pierpont of Brooklyn; John R. Triplet of Missouri, and David B. Lyman of LaGrange, Ill.

The house of bishops will be presided over by the Right Rev. John Williams, bishop of Connecticut, who is the senior bishop in date of consecration. All the bishops will attend the convention. The sessions of the house of bishops will be held behind closed doors, but those of the house of deputies will be open to the general public.

Two subjects to be considered at this meeting are of more than ordinary importance and will probably cause much discussion and arouse feelings as intense as any engendered in a political meeting. Church conventions are examples of undisciplined human nature in combat, though the delegates soften the language of contempt and violent opposition for the sake of appearances. But it is only a velvet covering of an Adam as willful and determined as the spirit that stalks in all political conventions. Canon thirteen forbids a clergyman to solemnize the marriage of a divorced person unless it be the innocent one who obtained the divorce on account of adultery proven against the other one. It is proposed to substitute the following: "No minister of this church shall solemnize the marriage of either party to a divorce during the life of the other party."

The following recommendations from the joint commission regarding marriages will be made:

It shall be the duty of ministers to admonish the people from time to time that the church discountenances can-