EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Matrimony and Dyspepsia

IT is not good for man or woman to eat alone. Thus medical authority has spoken for years. The solitary diner out, having no company before him, other than his food, swallows it improperly masticated, hurries one course upon another before the stomach can properly adjust itself to the conditions that tax it, and acquires a dyspepsia that distress him severely and makes life a blue print.

The increase in dyspepsia and kindred ailments, so one who has been gathering information asserts, is largely due to the independence manifested by both sexes regarding matrimony. In other words, were there fewer bachelors and bachelor maidens there would be less demand for tonics to brace up an impaired digestion.

In spite of the orthodox joke about the young wife ruining her husband's digestive apparatus by her attempts at cookery, it is established that there are, in reality, much fewer cases of dyspepsia among the wedded than among those who choose to remain single.

Food consumption should be a task of slow process, and the mind should be free from care and unnecessary excitement during the meal hour. This is best established when two persons dine together and enjoy such good-natured chaff, raillery or interesting chat as diverts them for the moment.

A few are so gifted as to be able to dine alone and dine deliberately by the amusement derived from their surroundings, but the rule is, as the restaurant-keepers can well testify to, that the single diner eats his meal in from one-third to one-half the time taken by those who dine in company.

The inference, of course, established by this research is that matrimony is a good thing for dyspepsia, and possibly this fact may establish a new line of thought in some crusty bachelors and fussy bachelor maidens, who are unable to eat a meal without topping it off with a few specially prepared tablets and nostrums to help out their poor stomachs.—New York Telegram.

Farming a Great Industry.

THE annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture shows that farming is still the chief business of the people of the United States. Fast as our other industries have grown, especially within recent years, agriculture still far surpasses any of them in the amount of its capital, in the value of its products and in the number of people engaged in it.

We have been boasting of the rapidity with which our exports of manufactured goods have increased, of our "conquests of the markets of the world," but Secretary Wilson shows that the balance of trade in all products except those of agriculture ran against us $865,000,000 during the last fourteen years. The balance of trade in agricultural products was $4,806,000,000 in our favor, however, so that the total balance in our favor, thanks to the farmer, was $3,940,000,000. While we have not been able to turn out or, at least, have not turned out—enough of other commodities to supply our wants, we have raised enough farm produce not only to meet our own demands, but to feed a large part of the rest of the world; and the agricultural lands of the country still possess large resources that never have been exploited. In the couse of time the country's industrial population no doubt will become so great as to consume all the food that the land can be forced to produce.—Kansas City Journal.

English as the World's Language.

THERE is a significance, more important and far-reaching than appears on the surface, in the announcement that the English language is to be the medium employed in the arbitration of the Venezuelan dispute at The Hague court. It has so long been the custom, still very generally in vogue, for such exchanges to be carried on in French that French has become recognized as the diplomatic tongue, the language to be observed in international courts and in the interchange of communications between nations. The first radical departure from this rule was in 1889, when English was used in the international parliament that settled the Samoan dispute between England, Germany, and the United States.

The growth of the United States as a world power has undoubtedly had a greater influence in this step toward making English the universal language than any other cause. This nation is now an interested party in any disputes that may arise in the Pacific. She has her interests in China, by reason of the united action of the Powers during the Boxer revolt, and her position as arbitrator and peace preserver in South America has become more pronounced with the development of that continent and its American continent. Russia, it is true, has a larger population than the United States and Great Britain combined, but millions of her citizens do not speak the Russian language. Aside from other considerations, there is a force and directness to plain English that are not found in any other tongue, and international relations are now such that plain, direct, concise terms are needed to avoid complications. The adoption of English as the diplomatic language is but a natural step in the right direction.—Washington Post.

How We Catch Colds.

THE London Hospital, a medical magazine, maintains that colds are caught, the colds that have nasal catarrh for their chief symptom, in the same way that other infectious diseases are caught, by the lodgment of a germ. The character of the germ is not specified. This is no new discovery or theory. Knowing persons have long been careful about exposing themselves to infection by persons who have a cold, lest they "catch" it. The old notion that a cold is result of exposure to draught or to cold air, or of getting the feet wet, has been abandoned, although it is true that one may get a chill in that way which will afford some of the symptoms and sensations of the nasal catarrh caused by a noxious germ. It is safer to avoid close contact, and all unnecessary contact, with a person who has this cold. A horse that has been wintered out often catches a cold upon being brought into the stable in the spring. Experiments with disinfectants have shown that it is not the warmth of the stable that induces the cold. Arctic voyagers are commonly free of colds until their return to a community where they prevail. In the small rocky island of St. Kilda, one of the Western Hebrides, Scotland, colds are unknown except when it is visited by some vessel, and it is said that the inhabitants can distinguish between the different kinds of colds brought by different ships. There is much similar evidence relating to the subject, and the Hospital declares that "some source of infection must be present before it is possible to catch cold." What appears to be needed is a specific germicide which may be used either for prevention or cure.—Boston Herald.

Fuel from the Marshes.

A series of experiments has lately been conducted under the auspices of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, into the fuel value of marsh mud. Now the announcement is made that this material contains the elements of coal to an equal if not greater amount than peat. The fact is well known that the mud bogs of Holland, of some parts of Germany, and yet more of Russia, are being worked commercially on an extensive scale for the supply of what is in fact artificial coal, resembling it in appearance, in specific gravity, in heat units and in effective service. In this country, Mr. Edward Atkinson says, we may be justified in considering it proved that New England and many other sections, distant from coal mines, are in possession of material that can be converted into domestic fuel at lower cost than any coal can be secured, and in many respects of better quality for cooking and other domestic purposes. It is also available for gas production; also for conversion into coke at lower cost and of purer quality than any other fuel that can be obtained in New England. Mr. Atkinson considers the secret of conversion to be solved; and he also asks this question: 'May it not be possible that the Irish peasants who have been converting the turf of their hill slopes into domestic fuel for generations have taught the scientists a lesson in heat and power which they had wholly overlooked?" As long as New England cannot have natural gas, she may find "mud coal" from the marshes a good substitute.—Buffalo Commercial.

BATTLING WITH AN ANCHOR.

To hoist to the cat-head an anchor weighing eight thousand pounds, with a gale of wind blowing and a tremendous sea rising, is a difficult task. The New York Sun tells how this work was undertaken on a warship in Hampton Roads. In order to raise the anchor to the deck of the ship the hundred-pound cat-block had to be fastened by the huge hook which depended from it to the ring in the balancing band on the anchor shank so that the power of the winch could be utilized.

The great anchor hung so that when the wave receded it was clear of the water, but each incoming crest submerged it several feet. As the ship tossed on the waves there was great danger that the enormous weight of the anchor would send the anchor through her thin plating. But with seas big enough to toss the ship about as easily as if she were a fishing-boat, and to swing that anchor back and forth like the pendulum of a toy clock, it was no child's game to hook the cat-block.

Two men were chosen, each a fine specimen of the American sailor. Just under the arms of each a line was made fast, and men on deck stood ready to haul away in case of need.

The two sailors watched their chance, and, when the ship's head was well out of water, over they went. They had hardly reached the anchor when a wave rolled in that surged four feet above their heads. When it passed both were clinging, almost breathless, to the shank of the anchor.

But the instant they were clear of water they jumped to their work and strove to get the block in place. With the ship hauling one way and the wind blowing another there was small chance for them to drag that hundred-pound block in still a third way. Again and again they had it almost fastened, when a great wave knocked it away and buried them far out of sight. Still the two men struggled at their task.

Then the inevitable happened. The great cat-block swung far out as the ship plunged forward, hung poised an instant, as if taking deliberate aim, and came sweeping back straight at the head of one of the two men. It struck him on the back of the head and knocked him ten feet from the anchor into the sea.

The rush of an incoming wave swept him away from the ship, and for a moment it seemed as if he would surely be lost. Then was justified the wisdom which had placed the line about his shoulders. The men on deck drew him in, unconscious but safe, and in ten minutes he was declaring to the officer in charge that he could surely hook that block next time.

But the captain had formed another plan. He determined to haul up the anchor as far as was possible, so that it should have the smallest room for play, and to make harbor. Just at nightfall she reached quiet waters, and once more the unruly anchor was let go again.

WAS THIS MAN HONORABLE?

Tried to Beat an Express Company, but Lost by the Transaction.

Now that the Mary and Ann problem has been disposed of let me tell of an actual case which came within my knowledge several years ago, says the Brooklyn Eagle. These were the facts: A wealthy and close-fisted banker in a certain Illinois city was accustomed to sending currency by express to his correspondent bank in Chicago. Somehow the express agent got a suspicion that the banker was saving expressage by sending larger sums than he pretended, so one day when the banker brought in a package which he said contained $5,000 the agent gave him a receipt as usual for that amount, and later in his private office opened the package and found that it contained $10,000. Without saying a word to anybody the agent hid the package away in his safe and awaited developments. In a few days the banker came in to say that the Chicago bank had not received the package.

"Very well," said the agent. "I will send out a tracer for it."

A few days later he told the banker that the package must have been lost in transit, so he counted out $5,000 and handed it over to him.

Now, the agent fully expected the banker to object to a settlement on a $5,000 basis and was prepared to tell him that when he paid double expressage on all the packages he had sent in the past the remainder of the $10,000 would be returned to him. But the banker preferred to lose the money rather than confess his dishonest methods, so he accepted the $5,000 and signed the regular release, believing that nobody but himself knew the lost package contained double that amount.

Up to this time the agent had acted faithfully in the interest of his company, but now a question arose in his mind as to who rightfully owns the remaining $5,000.

Never mind what he actually did with it. The question is, dear reader, what would you have done with it, and why?

Good Linguists.

No less than 111 officers of the British army have qualified as interpreters in the Russian language, 88 of whom belong to the Indian service.

Few men can afford to stand on their dignity all the time. It is necessary to get off and hustle occasionally.

Science and Invention

Yellow fever is being eradicated in Cuba since the American occupation of the island. This is due principally to the extermination of the mosquito.

From the latest measurements by Curie, it is estimated that the energy of fifteen pounds of radium, fully utilized, would run a one-horse-power engine many centuries.

Sycamore is an exceedingly durable wood, and a statue from it, now in the museum of Gizeh, is reported sound and natural in appearance, although nearly six thousand years old.

A cedar, which is 1,000 years old, is said to have been recently cut near Pike's Peak, Colorado. Charles E. Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, is responsible for this assertion. The tree was a brown cedar and the growth rings on the stump were easily counted.

The clam is disappearing so fast that the United States Fish Commission is endeavoring to propagate the mollusk by artificial culture. The fish commission is studying the soft, or long clam, but the State of New York is confining its attention to the round, or hard clam.

The serum obtained by inoculating horses with cobra venom, so effective in the practice of Calmette, has been found by Dr. Tidswell to have no power in counteracting the venom of Australian snakes. Other experiments seem to prove that the anti-venom serum is only active against poison of snakes of the same species as that supplying the venom of the serum.

Many of the curious animal inhabitants of the earth are threatened with extinction, but the ostrich, fortunately, can be preserved by artificial rearing. Considerable attention has lately been drawn to the ostrich farms of California, and now it is reported that ostriches have been successfully reared in Australia. They produce magnificent white feathers, as much as 27 inches in length and 15 in width. The first birds were imported from Africa.

Spiders and crabs are able to replace limbs which have been removed by accident. Crabs are decidedly pugilistic, and when they come in contact with members of their own species a battle is likely to ensue, in which limbs are destroyed. Fishermen state that when crabs are confined in shallow water a thunderstorm will cause a wholesale picking away of their limbs. It is fortunate for them that nature has provided for these accidents by giving them the power of growing new limbs in a short time.

A German chemist describes a new cement, composed of casein and some tannic acid compound, that becomes very hard when dry, and is then insoluble in water, oils, petroleum, etc. In preparing it, calcium tannate may be obtained by adding clear lime water to a tannin solution until no further precipitation occurs, then pouring off the liquid and drying the precipitate. The calcium tannate is mixed with casein in proportions ranging from one to one up to one to ten. The dried mixture is reduced to powder, which is ready for use on adding water to any desired consistency.

R. B. Ewart, who recently traversed South America from Callao and Lima, across the Andes and down the Amazon Valley to the Atlantic, informs United States Consul Kenneday at Para that the Ucayali River, one of the tributaries of the Amazon, is as large as the Mississippi, and traverses a rich, rubber-tree district; but all through this region the country lying beyond a distance of two miles from the principal streams is completely unexplored, even by the natives. Besides rubber, the forests abound in rosewood, mahogany, cedar, walnut and dyewoods, and on the high lands are vast stretches of savannas, or prairies, with a climate like spring all the year, and great possibilities for cattle raising.

HANDLING OF FOOD.

Care Should Be Taken in Putting Groceries Away Properly.

It matters little how much care is exercised in the selection of food or the sum expended in its purchase if it is not properly cared for after it reaches the house. Through carelessness and ignorance the loss is often great, proving that there is more than a grain of truth in the old adage, "A woman can throw out on a teaspoon what a man brings in on a shovel."

Salads and vegetable that arrive in good condition are dumped in a hot kitchen to wilt and wither until the cook gets "good and ready" to put them away. Meat is left in its paper to absorb the taste and get glued fast to it. Fruit is bruised in emptying it out, butter left uncovered to grow rancid, and milk standing to sour.

When green vegetables come they should be put at once in the cellar or into the icebox. Salads may be wrapped in a damp cloth, than in newspaper, and put in the air.

Cereals should be emptied in their proper receptacles of tin or glass and closely covered to prevent insects getting in. Coffee should go immediately into an airtight canister in order to keep its aroma. Olive oil should be put into a cool, dark place, and salt, soap and cheese into dry places.

Dried fruit should be kept in airtight glass cans; nuts in a cool, dry place to prevent their growing rancid, and chocolate, cocoa and cocoa shells in cold storage. Molasses and syrups need to be where it is cool.

Eggs should be handled carefully, so as not to break the membrane seperating the yolk and white, and kept in a dry, cool place.

Flour belongs in a bin or barrel raised a few inches from the floor. While wheat flour may be obtained in quantity, cornmeal or graham flour should only be purchased in small quantities and kept in tin or glass.

Onions should not be left cut, as they are great absorbers. Neither onions, bananas nor muskmelons should be put in an icebox with other food.

Winter vegetables should be fully matured when gathered, dried thoroughly and then stored in a cool, dry place. Carrots, beets and celery keep better if packed in sand.

Small and soft fruits should be scattered on platters, not left in baskets as purchased, as their own weight crushes them and they decay. Peaches and fine pears should be removed to a shelf and not be allowed to touch one another. Tomatoes may be ripened by exposure to the sun.

Milk and cream should be kept separate from the other foods, as they absorb odors.

Butter, if purchased in quantity, should have a cloth spread over the top and on top of that a thick layer of salt.

When necessary to take out butter, lift the cloth from the side, cut out a square, even piece, and recover with cloth and salt. If only a few pounds are purchased at a time, keep in a tin or agate pail, cover with a cloth, wrung out of salt water, and the lid.

Lard should be kept in tin and in a cool place.

Fresh fish should never be permitted to soak in water. Put in a cool place directly on artificial ice.

Meat should not be laid on the ice, as that draws out the juices. If fresh killed, allow it to get chilled before putting in cold storage, otherwise, the animal heat is driven inside and causes fermentation, which is poisonous. Do not let chops and steaks rest against one another, much less ham and steak.

All meats and poultry require a cool, dry atmosphere. If necessary to hang them, suspend with the choicest and tender parts down. Hang lamb and mutton by the shank, and poultry by the feet.—Boston Journal.

POWERS COULD CRIPPLE RUSSIA

If Country's Money Supply Was Shut off She Could Not Fight.

That every power in Europe is jealous of Russia and would be glad to see her schemes of conquest in the orient defeated and the nation humbled in the dust is too apparent to require emphasis. An article on Russia published in L'European, a journal of international influence issued in Paris, has attracted no little attention in the European press. The author is the Danish publicist Bjornstjerne Bjornson. He assumes that Russia is an undesirable and dangerous element in Europe and Asia, and as a means of thwarting her further advance proposes that other nations stop supplying her with money. Since 1899, the writer estimates, Russia has borrowed abroad $700,000,000 with which to build fleets and to maintain an army no less than to establish the gold standard and build railways, and M. Bjornson seems to take it very much to heart that "the larger part of this foreign gold, which has maintained the Russian institution and served its plan of oppression and of conquest, has flowed from the country of liberty, equality and fraternity."

"It is admitted in France and America," M. Bjornson goes on to say, "that without French gold the Russian institution would have gone to smash long ago. No centralized power, even the best, is, for any length of time, capable of governing so many and varied peoples. No hand, no matter how powerful, can stretch over such an enormous territory or unite so many contrary destinies created by varied climates and by numerous racial and religious differences. But what the best government, what the most powerful hand cannot perform becomes chaos and misery under a feeble autocratic power or a bureaucratic insituation that is mercenary and mendacious, unstable and oppressive. Without the foreigner's aid it would have destroyed itself, whether by revolution or by asphyxia. What, however, would have been most natural would have been a general disintegration of the administration of the colossal masses of Russia according to a scheme of federalization.

"With the aid of the foreigner's gold all the inflammable material of this formidable accumulation of injustice and distress has been able to subsist until it has become a danger to us all. Unless a war precipitates her upon her neighbors—a war which would be followed through long years by thunderings and tumults—she will continue to court them as of yore. On this point Russian and foreigner agree. But war will come. If up to the present time the all-powerful Russian institution has not recoiled before any of the means taken to prolong its existence, why should it recoil before war? Whatever the result of the war, one thing is certain—the payment of interest will cease. Russia will thank the aid given her by state bankruptcy."

An Irreparable Loss.

"Have you heard the latest? Brown's wife has run off with his chauffeur."

"Mercy, what a pity! He was such a good chauffeur! Brown will never be able to replace him."—Smart Set.

The experience a man buys is seldom up to the sample submitted.

QUEER STORIES

The full dress liveries of the British royal footmen cost $550 apiece.

The famous Maelstrom whirlpool is four geographical miles in diameter.

A plague of white ants is devouring the wooden houses in New Orleans.

The profit to the Government on pennies pays the entire expenses of the mint.

Sheep used as beasts of burden in North India carry twenty pounds weight apiece.

In nearly forty instances languages have been first reduced to writing by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

A waterspout spins with enormous speed. Its velocity at the sea level has been estimated at six miles a minute.

Eighteen observatories are at work on chartering the stars. The finished map will contain thirteen million stars.

A man in Palmer, Mass., died recently of chronic poisoning from arsenic in the colors upon the wall paper of his sitting-room.

Blank verse was first introduced into English poetry by Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, in a translation of Virgil's "Aeneid," in 1547.

The number of stars visible to the naked eye is fewer than six thousand. The number of stars visible through the largest telescope is probably not fewer than one hundred million.

So many rabbits and quail are killed by house cats running loose in the woods that the New Jersey hunters want to have a law passed allowing cats found in the woods to be shot. The present law provides that any person allowing a dog to run wild shall pay a fine of $20. Cats are said to be more destructive of game than dogs, foxes, minks or hawks.

A remnant of the Sevis tribe of Indians inhabits the island of Tiburon, in the Gulf of California, and is ruled entirely by the women. Formally the tribe numbered about five thousand, but is now shrunk to a few hundred, living a life of almost complete isolation, and refusing to intermarry with any of the Indians of the mainland. The woman is master of the household, and a council of matrons is at the head of public affairs.

A boy who was killed in The Bronx recently by lightning had the likeness of a fern imprinted on his body by the shock. A similar incident is reported from Europe. During a shooting competition at Pont, in the Canton Vaud, the other day, the grand stand was struck by lightning and twenty-five persons received shocks, from which, however, they sustained but little physical injury. One most singular effect, however, remained. Every person who had felt the electric shock had photographically stamped upon the back, the face or the arms the reflection of the pine trees behind the firing line.

Value of Appreciation.

Many men and women underestimate the value of expression; they take too many things for granted; they assume that their affection, or their gratitude, or their sense of obligation, is understood without words. Such people are often surrounded by those who are craving some expression of affection, some word of approval, some kind of recognition. The best work is sometimes done with shut teeth and a fixed purpose, in dead silence, so far as the world is concerned, without a murmur of applause or a word of thanks; but this is not the way in which work ought to be done among intelligent men and women, and it is not the way in which, as a rule, the best work is evoked from the greatest number of people. The majority of men and women get the best out of themselves when they are in a congenial atmosphere. This is particularly true of those finer kinds of work which express individuality, quality and personal gift.—St. Louis Republic.

Followed Directions.

A gentleman engaged a man to act in the capacity of coachman and gardener. One day he bought a bottle of horse liniment and told the man to apply it to a lame horse according to the directions on the bottle. About an hour afterwards he went to the stable and found the man industriously dipping a spike into the liniment and then rubbing it against the horse's leg.

"What are you doing that for?" he asked.

The man looked up with a smile of assurance.

"Because," said he, "'twas what it said in the directions on the bottle; but it's slow work."

"You must have made a mistake," said the gentleman.

"I have not," answered the man, in an aggrieved tone. "It says here on the bottle, 'Apply with a large nail or tooth brush,' and, as I had no tooth brush, I thought I'd better use this spike."

At the Grating.

Teller—I cannot cash this check, madam, unless I know who you are.

She (haughtily)—I wouldn't accept the money, anyway, from anyone who doesn't know who I am.—Life.

Facts are stubborn things—unless they bump up against a shrewd lawyer.

A woman cares not where a man hails from if she is permitted to reign.

Many a man who claims to be a gentleman doesn't work at it.