

ISABELLA'S DESCENDANTS.

The discovery is attributed to President David Starr Jordan of Stanford university that almost any American of distinction can trace his descent to a common ancestor, one Isabella de Vermandois, duchess of Warren, who lived in the twelfth century. So far as that is concerned, none of us has any difficulty in proving by unimpeachable mathematics and irrefutable logic that he is warmed by the transmitted blood of nobility, royalty and genius. A child of today has two parents, four grandparents and so on. Counting for convenience three generations to the hundred years, his theoretical ancestors in Isabella's century are numbered by millions; a few centuries further back by billions. The actual number is far smaller, since lines of descent criss-cross from common ancestors; but it is a fair logical inference that among so many millions and centuries every one may count on possessing a reasonable number of royal or distinguished forebears. But what does that prove? How much influence on the life of an American of today could be claimed for one-seventh-millionth part of Isabella blood, or for any probable number of multiples of that share? Here is the crucial test of the heredity fallacy, the scientific basis of democracy, says the New York World. Eugenics is a fact; but better far a descent from a reasonable proportion of good stock in the three or four most recent generations than the ability to claim one-two-hundredth part of a single drop of blood as coming from some vized ancestor of the twelfth century.

A Chicago woman has a just grievance. She had just hired a taxicab when the police jumped in and made the driver pursue a party of automobile bandits who had just robbed a jewelry store. After participating in a hot engagement without power to extricate herself, when the robbers got away she was confronted with a bill of \$9 for the use of the taxicab, and on refusing to pay it was sent to jail. It looks as if she should be grateful that the robbers did not capture the vehicle and make off with it, in which case evidently the slanting justice of Chicago would have made her pay for the loss of the taxicab.

The perfect cat has also been found. The ideal cat won the first prize at the show of the National Cat club at the Crystal palace, London. It is an orange colored tabby named Torrington, with a red frill. It is valued by its owner, Mrs. Horace Cook of Bideford, Devonshire, at \$5,000. The color is not marred by a suspicion of white eyes, which consist of alternate circles of light and dark red. The coat is also of alternate streaks in two shades. Louis Wain, the judge, said he had never before, at any show, seen such perfection of shading.

The boy who was found adrift on the Caribbean sea, clinging to a coconut palm tree from which he had picked a nut and secured nourishment that sustained his vitality until rescued by a passing steamer, was blown off the island of Jamaica by a hurricane. The hurricane also blew down and carried into the water the palm tree on which he managed to keep himself afloat. It proved a better life preserver than usually is available to passengers of wrecked steamers.

A Yale professor declares that colleg men, as a rule, drink too much. He holds the view that a university should rise superior to the vices of the community about it, and set a better example. This is theoretically supposed to be one of the objects of the higher education, but practically young college men are not doing their utmost to carry out this high ideal. The American university and college should stand for a high standard in every respect, and the professor in question is doing good and loyal service in calling attention to the fact.

Vienna furnishes a suicide pact that outranks all others at present. Three youths in love with a young girl threatened to commit suicide on her account. They were drinking tea in a secluded corner of a cafe when all suddenly fell from their chairs, dying. They evidently had placed poison in their beverage. A photograph of the trio was found in their possession addressed to the girl, who told of their threat.

It is sufficient comment on that scientific discovery that a large number of the leading men of this country are descended from the Countess Isabella de Vermandois of the eleventh century, that not counting intermarriages they had about a billion other ancestors, which is presumably more people than there were in the world then. Whence we may draw the general mathematical conclusion that everybody in the 1100's was the ancestor of everybody in the 1900's.

Spring Bonnets for Children Modeled After Their Elder's



SHAPES for little girls are miniatures of some of the shapes made for grown-ups, and are quaint and pretty because they have the charm which belongs to little things patterned after larger models. But the trimming of these hats for children is more distinctly different than ever before from that used on the millinery of their elders. This season shows a fancy for narrow ribbons tied in childish bows. Flowers are tiny and ostrich is employed, but made up in special designs fitted for children's wear. Little pressed shapes divide honors with hand-made hats of thin materials. Beautiful models are shown of the daintiest laces laid over French crepe or the thinnest silks. Lace is more strongly featured than embroideries. Brims are covered with fancy edgings extending beyond the brim-edge. Facings are of highly lustrous silks or ribbons. Fancy edgings with pendant finish, like that shown in the illustration, are quite new and captivating for these little bonnets. Children's millinery is adorably quaint and suggestive of happy childhood. Colors are light and material fragile; for these small bonnets are for the dress occasions of little ladies. For every day and school wear quite other ideas have been carried out by designers. Misses' hats are another story and in a class by themselves. While they show the influence of the liking for thin materials, such fabrics are more sparingly used on them than in hats for women and children.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

IN PALE GREY SATIN CLOTH

Distinctive Touches That Give Effectiveness to Otherwise Extremely Simple Costume.

This is a pretty, effective dress of pale grey satin cloth. The skirt has the seam down left side of front wrapped and trimmed with buttons and loops; the lower edge is curved off and the upper one is cut out to show a small panel of silk, which also trims the bodice; the



lower part is of the silk, so is the side of foot of skirt. The collar is of lace with a frill and a bow arranged below in front; net forms the little vest, also the under-sleeves, and bands of silk trim the sleeves.

Materials required: 3/4 yards cloth 44 inches wide, 1 yard silk 20 inches wide, about 6 dozen buttons, one-half yard net 18 inches wide.

Jockey Blouses.

The jockey blouse is going to be the fad of the early spring. Already the fashion is being tried out a little in Paris and seems to be "taking," we are told.

The jockey blouse suggests nothing so definitely as the straight front, rather close fitting blouse of the jockey. Its distinguishing characteristic is found in the sleeves, which are of a different color than the body of the blouse.

Vivid contrasts and almost discordance are favored for the jockey effect.

HINT AT POLONAISE EFFECT

New Gowns Show Signs of Revival of Old Fashion That May Again Become Popular.

A few of the new gowns go back to the remote epoch of the polonaise. The coats of the last season, with their deep round pointed backs and long curved fronts, have paved the way so that the transition to the polonaise does not seem surprising. Whether or not it will be more than a tentative experiment remains to be seen. But at any rate the experiment is being made.

The saying, "Other times, other manners," is nowhere more sure of its application than in the realms of fashions. So it is quite to be expected that these Twentieth Century offerings in the polonaise should have their own distinguishing features. In one case where the polonaise is of deep pink panne velvet worn over a white charmeuse slip it is extended in the back to form a pointed train. A girde of silver gauze crosses outside the velvet in the back, but is drawn through openings several inches from the front edges of the polonaise and then continued in soft folds across the bust, forming the front of the corsage. This polonaise and that of fifty years ago are decidedly not the same thing, but their common origin is unmistakable.

Charming Border Designs.

Beautiful border designs are shown in the new summer materials, and foulards, voiles, dimities, lawns and swisses all have taken unto themselves borders—wide or narrow. As a rule, these borders are charming, although it is not always easy for the uninspired dressmaker to use them successfully. Radium foulards have improved until, at their best, their texture is marvelously light, supple and lustrous, and yet they are more practical than ever, uncrushable, spot-proof and serviceable. The prettiest things shown in this class of silks are the fancy designs—quaint floral effects in old-fashioned colors.

Cord Instead of Buttons.

Some of the designers tired of buttons are attempting to substitute lacings of cord to be used on the skirts, as well as on the jackets. These lacings have been used extensively for some time instead of buttons on negligees and house gowns adding a decorative finish that owed much of its charm to the fact that it was "something different," but the idea of adapting them for jackets and skirts is innovation. Yet the effect is good, as was conclusively demonstrated by a costume worn recently.

Yellow Laces.

The yellow or gold laces and golden tissue are introduced lavishly in Paris evening gowns for the Riviera, and yellow and amber beads, gold bead trifles, gold slippers gold-brocaded chiffons and the like add to the general brilliance of effect.

For Auburn-Haired Girls.

Canary yellow is a shade which can be worn to perfection by auburn-haired girls, and is lovely for evening gowns and wraps.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

One of the Great Mysteries in Life Unexplained



WASHINGTON.—Can any one tell William Jennings Bryan, "the great commoner," and declared by many to be slated for the post of secretary of state in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, why a red cow which eats green grass produces white milk?

"There are mysteries in life, love and patriotism which we accept every day, but cannot explain," Mr. Bryan recently declared. "If a man refused to eat everything he could not understand he would starve to death. No one yet has been able to explain how a red cow can eat green grass and give white milk."

Mayhap the near future will solve the problem for Mr. Bryan when during the future consideration of international problems the secretary-to-be wanders to the windows of the office

of the secretary of state and debates the question pro and con; debates with himself while gazing over the greensward toward where Pauline Wayne's successor will be chewing her cud or filling the space between her red sides with green grass preparatory to giving white milk for the then President Wilson and his family.

Pauline Wayne? Everybody knows Pauline. She is President Taft's "official" cow, given to him by Senator Stephenson of Wisconsin. On March 5, with other greets and near-greets, she will go out of office. She has a family tree with many branches.

Unlike Secretary of State Knox, however, her successor has definitely been chosen, and the next "leading cow of the land," equally as blue-blooded and pedigreed, will be Nona of Avon, a registered animal valued at \$5,000. This is the cow the owner of which, William Galloway of Waterloo, Iowa, promised to Senator Cummins when he should become president. Senator Cummins not having had a look-in, Mr. Galloway decided to offer the cow to Mr. Wilson when he is inaugurated.

Uncle Samuel Is a Booster of the Old-Time Fair

IN an effort to revive interest in the old-time agricultural fairs the department of agriculture the other day issued a bulletin treating of the benefits to be derived from such gatherings.

The report is of historic interest, for it tells of the beginning of such "fairs" when the country was young and when they were not only an advantage to agriculture, but were the excuse for social gatherings as well.

"What was primarily a market fair," says the report, "was held in October, 1804, 'on the Mall on the south side of the Tiber, extending from the bridge at the Center Market to the Potomac in Washington, D. S. The city government appropriated \$50 toward the fund for premiums and residents subscribed an equal sum. This amount was awarded to the best lamb, sheep, steer, milch cow, jack, oxen and horse actually sold."

The report declares that the first real agricultural fair was held by the Columbian Agricultural Society in Georgetown, D. C., in 1809.

According to the newspapers of that day, "it was attended by a numerous assemblage of members of the society, among whom we noticed the president and his lady, the secretary of state, the secretary of the treasury, the registrar of war, the controller, the registrar, etc., and many other ladies and gentlemen of respectability."



Secretary Wilson is a firm believer in the usefulness of local and state fairs in disseminating agricultural knowledge.

The bulletin is said to have been inspired by his belief that an interchange of ideas among the farmers of the country would tend to the advancement of agriculture.

With the present appropriation, it is possible to make an allotment to each senator, representative and delegate of approximately 12,500 copies, which is admittedly insufficient, in view of the increasing requests received by them. Under the law, only one-fifth of the farmers' bulletins printed are available for distribution by the department, and this is not sufficient to permit it to comply with half the requests it receives, and makes it necessary constantly to refer applicants to their senators, representatives or delegates, who themselves in many instances are unable to supply the bulletins.

Dog Chews Up Suffrage Arguments at a Meeting



CHewing "Votes for Women" literature with reckless abandon, "Tige," a spotted bull terrier belonging to Mrs. Payne, daughter-in-law of Representative Seroeno Payne of New York, the other afternoon caused consternation and amusement at suffrage headquarters at 1420 F street northwest, and almost jeopardized the plans for the suffragist pageant and procession to be held March 3 in Pennsylvania avenue.

"Tige" was tied to the leg of a table near which stood large heaps of pledges to march in the procession, which are being sent broadcast over the country, while near him sat Miss Elsie Hill, daughter of Representative Hill of Connecticut; Mrs. Payne, the Hon. Mrs. Patricia Street of Australia and nearly a score of other suffragist leaders, all busily preparing for the

procession on inauguration day.

When Mrs. Payne caught sight of Tige, calmly sitting beneath the table with his head in the midst of a pile of suffragist literature, chewing votes for women arguments as though he was a real anti-suffragist, she gave a little gasp, and with other women ran to the rescue of the arguments. Thereafter Tige was in disgrace, and shortly afterward was taken home by his mistress.

Miss Flora Wilson, daughter of the secretary of agriculture, who is chairman of the music committee for the procession and pageant, announced that she had seen Mme. Nordica, the famous grand opera singer, who had consented to take the part of Columbia in the tableaux on the treasury department steps if she can arrange for her engagements. She also announced that a number of leading members of the Metropolitan Opera company are arranging to take part in the pageant.

One of the most comprehensive musical entertainments ever seen in Washington on any occasion is being planned for the pageant by Miss Wilson, who is intent on demonstrating the powerful influence women have on music in the United States.

Symbol of Authority Always Under Strong Guard

"BOTH the Democrats and Republicans have been behaving well for many years, according to the appearance of that cudgel over on the speaker's rostrum," observed a Republican on the house floor the other day. "But, by the big stick, I bet it won't look that way when the Democrats get through with the special session away into next summer. Next time it is repaired it will have to be taken to a blacksmith instead of a jeweler."



The "cudgel" referred to was the historic eagle-capped mace, symbol of authority of the house of representatives, which, when the house is in session, reposes on a stand at the right of the speaker's platform. When a member or members become obstreperous and refuse to be in order the sergeant-at-arms, accompanied on either side by pages, approaches and holds the mace in front of the member or members. If quiet is not restored (and is usually is) there is an arrest or two made.

The mace is always under guard. When it was taken from the capitol recently to a local jewelry shop for repairs it was, according to an unwritten law, accompanied by two members of the capitol police, who stood by while the jeweler riveted a pinion which holds the sextant in place. This was the first time in ten years that the mace had been removed from the capitol. The repairs at that time consisted of the straightening out of one of the wings of the eagle that had become nicked.

The mace was made in 1841 by William Adams of New York.

IT'S HARD TO WORK

It's torture to work with a lame, aching back. Get rid of it. Attack the cause. Probably it's weak kidneys. Heavy or confining work is hard on the kidneys, anyway, and once the kidneys become inflamed and congested, the trouble keeps getting worse. The danger of running into gravel, dropsy or Bright's disease is serious. Use Doan's Kidney Pills, a fine remedy for backache or bad kidneys.

A Washington Case

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REFUSING A CROWN.



Manager—Say, I want a super to take the part of a king. You'll get 50 cents a performance.

Applicant—Sorry, boss, but I can't assume the affairs of state for anything like that amount.

Not Altogether a Case of Love.

Here is a story to illustrate the point that one never can judge by appearances.

"A young boy with golden curls, a regular cherub in appearance, was on the front porch playing with a little dog and putting him through a lot of tricks. A minister passed by and was struck by the appearance of the little chap and the celebrity with which the dog obeyed all his commands.

"'Ah, little boy,' he said, 'you must love your dog. Are you good to him?'"

"'Sure!' answered the cherub.

"'And I suppose he loves you, too, and that's why he minds you so well?'"

"'Well, if he didn't mind me, I'd knock his blooming block off,' was the unexpected retort of the child."

Packing Food in Ferns.

In Germany the use of ferns is coming into more and more favor for packing food which is transported either short or long distances. The practice became common in England before it gained equal vogue in Germany, and the results are said to be excellent, especially in shipping fresh fruit, butter, fish and other food products which require unusual care.

The devil considers it safe to sleep in the church where the preaching keeps nobody awake.

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CONSTIPATION

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