

A STATE BANQUET.

ABOUT FORMAL WHITE HOUSE DINNERS, PAST AND PRESENT.

The Highest Social Event in Washington Life—The Invitations and the Guests, Flowers, Sculpture, Wines and the Most Expensive Cookery.

The president gave his first state dinner not a great while ago. It was to the cabinet, and each guest received a heavily engraved invitation enclosed in an envelope, which bore the national coat of arms.

These dinners last several hours, and the guests first assemble in the East room, and it is here that the president and Mrs. Cleveland receive them. They go to the table at once, and there they eat of what is as a rule, as twenty courses. The dinner table mentioned was one of thirty covers, and the state dining table was set in its ordinary form.

The dining room is a great dining hall, as large as the ground floor of a house thirty feet wide and forty feet deep, and its ceiling is so high that it would reach to the base of the windows of the second story of a city house.

The flowers of a state dinner are beyond description, and the florist puts his best efforts on the gold vase which lies in the center of the table. This vase is nearly the whole length of the table, and it is a mirror with a gold rim about three inches high, and this, during a great state dinner, is framed with the choicest of flowers and greens.

It goes without saying that guests at state dinners always appear in full dress. The men wear boiled shirts and the decollete dress prevails, as a rule, with the ladies. At the dinner referred to Mrs. Fairchild's dress was decollete and Mrs. Radcoot's dress was well filled with lace at the front.

The cook of the White House gets a better salary than a New York bookkeeper, and he is much of an artist in some of the big chefs of Europe. He builds his dishes with the care of the painter or the sculptor, and casts and hears and nearly every object in nature is represented by him in the form that the dishes assume on the state-dinner table.

The leeks for state dinners usually come on the table in forms very different from the flowers, and an old French woman here has made a fortune in furnishing leeks to noted dinner tables.

The perfume pencil is a novelty in theory, if not in practice. You never heard of it neither did anybody until after the device had been shown by a dapper peddler, possibly the inventor, for they are not known to the stores.

Had Had Experience. Employment Agent—That family pays go! wages and you better try it. Laxy Domestic—Is the man of the house very particular about things?

Oh, it don't matter about her; I'll go.—Omaha World.

Mr. Depew's After Dinner Speech.

It is 9 o'clock now. We are in Delmonico's, and Mr. Depew is at the center of a long table on the raised dais at the end of the room.

"Are no notes to be made?" you ask. No. In after dinner speeches Mr. Depew has long since given up that practice as a rule. "He trusts to his feet for the language," and with feet so well trained by years of practice behind dinner tables he seldom trusts in vain.

"Ravagers" of the Seine. The river Seine, as well as the streets of Paris, has its chiffonniers, only those who make their living by gathering whatever they find floating in the stream are known as "ravagers" instead of rag pickers. They ply their business in skiffs and flatboats, with the aid of short harpoons, and nothing from a dead cat to an old cork comes amiss to them.

Skill of Ancient Builders. A personal inspection of the pyramids of Egypt, made by a quarry owner who spent some time recently on the Nile, has led him to the conclusion that the old Egyptians were better builders than those of the present day. He states that there are blocks of stone in the pyramids which weigh three or four times as much as the obelisk on the crabsbank.

An Excess of Modesty. Modesty born of true humility is scarcely ever recognized as such, for it is not obtrusive, and when it affects one man's relations to another it does so in the right way, the inferior yielding to the superior.

Progress in Dentistry. "But speaking about false teeth," said the dentist, "the next thing we are going to make is teeth that will look so much like natural teeth that the closest inspection will not be able to tell the difference.

Useful in Diphtheria. A commission of the Paris Academy of Medicine finds that hydrofluoric acid, which is highly antiseptic, has a therapeutic action when inhaled.

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A TATTOOING CRAZE.

A Fad That is Growing Among People Who Ought to Know Better. Professor S. O'Reilly just now is illustrating the art of tattooing in a Bowery museum. His subject is a young woman who is ambitious of posing as a museum "freak," and to that end lays aside modesty and endures the pain incident to the pricking of a sheaf of fifty needles, with which the professor indelibly delineates birds, beasts, reptiles, heraldic devices and human figures in her sensitive skin.

"Of course it's popular," he said. "The art was never so generally practiced since it was used to mark slaves. You'd be surprised at the number of people of tone and position in society who come to me to be marked with designs and colors that will never be obliterated while they live. It used to be that sailors were the only people who coveted such branding.

Another distinguished example is a noted Canadian athlete. Nearly all his work was done at one session, lasting thirteen hours. I used fifty needles in the bunch that marked him for life. It was simply a vagary on his part, as he had no purpose of exhibiting himself for a living.

There is no danger in the operation if properly done, and the pain may be greatly diminished. I use a mixture of hannamels and cocaine to moisten the ink and take sensation out of the parts I am operating upon.

The majority of the tattooing of the present day is probably done in Africa, where different tribes have distinguishing marks pricked in their black skin.

The majority of the people who come to me are of the middle class, though very often I receive orders to go to private residences up town to do marking, especially on children.

Death Rate in Russia. In the thirteen central provinces, the heart of Russia, the rate of mortality is as high as 62 in 1,000 per year. According to the last report of the director of the medical department—that issued in October, 1887—it appears that in some parts of the empire mortality reaches the high rate of 60 to 80 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants.

To Avert Ophthalmia. A writer in Nature states that three cases have come under his personal observation in which brown skinned natives in very different parts of the world blacken their faces to protect them from intense light and heat.

The population of Paris is said to be decreasing quite rapidly.

TOWN LIFE FOR CHILDREN

What a London Physician says on the subject—of a National Education. Physicians and moralists alike agree that town life is unhealthy, and that but for the fact that the child is made good by the regular intake of healthy country blood, the rugged child in the cities would rapidly deteriorate.

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Not Sufficiently Civilized. The Chinese minister lately accredited to a leading European court, was talking here of a very eminent Englishman, and, paying him that his wife had gone to England for the education of their children, said: "You must be very lonely. But of course you have a number of children."

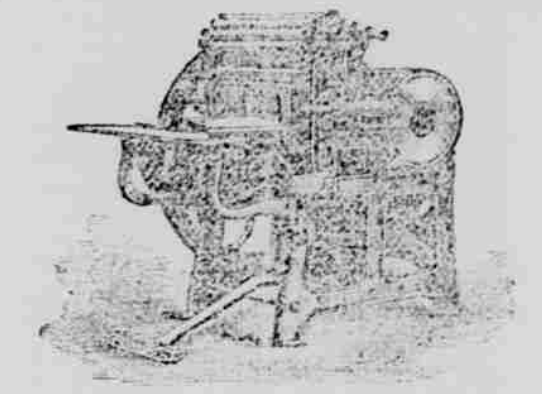
Treatment of Colds. Colds are usually neglected in their early stages. Once they get a grip, eradication is difficult. Take heroic doses of quinine when congestion begins and sneezing manifests itself. This is as near a specific as the world contains.

Best Three Books. Edmund Geese has selected as the "best three books for young men," according to his view of the matter, Shakespeare, Boswell and Macaulay's "Essays." Archbishop Farner has taken a hand in the controversy and selected as the best three Dante, Shakespeare and Milton, and as the second best three Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius and the "Imitatio Christi," the one list being entirely poetical and the other entirely religious.

The Plattsmouth Herald Is enjoying a Boom in both its DAILY AND WEEKLY EDITIONS.

The Year 1888 Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of Political, Commercial and Social Transactions

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