LUCK ON WALL STREET.

SIGNS WHICH BROKERS BELIEVE IN-DICATIVE OF BAD FORTUNE.

Wall Street a Hotbed of Superstition. How Hunchbacks Affect the Market. The Wrong Foot Foremost-The Number 13-Lucky Suits of Clothes.

While eating lunch the other day with a prominent broker, I chanced to ask him about the stock market. Before the question was out of my mouth his hand went under the table like a flash and three ominous raps greeted my inquiry.
""Spirits?" said I, distrustfully eyeing

"Luck," he answered, sipping his coffee. "I rapped for luck, as every sensible man should when the market is referred to in

Outside the circle of Spiritualists hun-dreds of prominent persons are superstitions. We consider ourselves at the meridian of civilization, but, as Emerson says, we are only at the cock crowing and the morning star. Hundreds of people consult swindlers who call themselves astrologers. A large proportion of the population here believe in signs indicative of good luck or ill luck, or else they believe that certain persons are favored with good look, while others are naturally unlucky. The Rothschilds will have nothing to do with a man whom they consider unlucky. Commodore Vanderbilt, one of the ablest railroad financiers this country ever produced, believed in luck.

BAD LUCK ON FRIDAY.

Hundreds of intelligent persons have a superstitious reluctance to engage in any important enterprise on Friday. This in-cludes as cool and matter of fact a man as Jay Gould. Under no circumstances will he use an elevator. The late Jesse Hoyt, the millionaire grain merchant, would never engage in any important business speculators on Friday, and many of the speculators on the big exchanges are similarly superstitions. They consider every Friday a Black Friday. The prejudice against Friday probably dates back to the Middle Ages, or to even a remoter period, as the day on which Christ was executed. as the day on which Christ was executed. It is only one of innumerable old superstitions which still survive.

Many investors and speculators in Wall street are superstitious about dropping things. If they find themselves constantly dropping articles which they happen to be carrying they take it as a sign that they must sell their bonds and stocks. Many have a superstitious fear of holding stocks over a holiday.

Some firms will not display the ominous 13 if it happens to be the number of their

"I confess," said the manager of a large banking and brokerage house, "that I have a superstition about the 18th day of the month. It is not generally a lucky day One unlucky instance I remember, too, about Friday A big lake steamer that plied between Buffalo and Chicago a number of years ago was launched on Friday, sailed on Friday and sank on Fri-

luck to see a hunchback. If they can it will bring big gains. Such a touch is also supposed to cure headaches. To see a negro the first thing in the morning is a favorable sign.

In the play "Henrietta" a youth who speculates in stocks when asked by his broker whether he wishes to buy or sell answers gravely, "I will consider it." Then he turns his back and tosses a cent Then he turns his back and tosses a cent to determine his course. This is really founded partly on fact. A person in the habit of speculating in stocks found he was losing steadily. At length he hit upon the idea of tossing a half dollar which he always carried for luck, and if it proved to be "head" he bought the first stock that came out on the tape; if it was "tail" he sold. For a time at least he was far more successful by this method than he had ever been through the exercise of common sense.

THE WRONG FOOT FOREMOST. Some persons on rising in the morning have a superstitious fear of putting the left foot out of bed first. Others believe in always putting on the left shoe first. If they meet a negro or a cross eyed woman they spit for good luck. Every-

body wants to pick up a horseshoe. On the Cotton Exchange there is one prominent member who consults the "spirits" for points on the market. On a dark day, when the gas is lighted, some of the brokers consider it a sign that the market will advance. Others say it is good luck to meet a Sister of Charity.

"I shouldn't care," said a popular oil operator, "to be long of 13,000 barrels of oil here and short that much in Oil City. I would make it 14,000 at all hazards. Of course it is all nonsense, but I should feel better to change the figures at once.
Then I have an unlucky suit of clothes.
It may sound laughable, but it is so. I have a fine gray suit at home which I have only worn four or five times in the last three years, and it has glready cost me ten times what I gave for it. I borrowed a diamond ring from a friend and thought it might give me luck. It was just the reverse. As sure as I wear that digmond ring the market breaks. Another thing, I never trade on Friday if I have seen that day a cross eyed woman or a red headed man."

One of the best known traders in the oil ring of the Consolidated Exchange will oil ring of the Consolidated Exchange will rever cross a street diagonally, but always at right angles. Between Wall street and Exchange place on narrow New street, on which both Stock Exchanges abut the brokers walk in the middle of the street about as much as they do on the sidewalks, but the oil operator referred to always keeps carefully to the sidewalks, and if he has occasion to cross at the intersection of another street altakes in each corner on the way rather than cut across cata-cornered. He has a German coin that he could not be induced German coin that he could not be induced

to sell It gives good luck.

Hundreds of brokers on the two Stock

Exchanges consider that they have their lucky suits of clothes.

lucky suits of clothes.

On the Consolidated Exchange, especially in the shouting, gesticulating, pushing and rollicking oil group, it is considered a very bad omen to open an umbrella and raise it over the head. Putting up an umbrella in a board room would seem under all circumstances to be unnecessary. It is worse. It brings bad luck. There is a skeptical wag in the growd, however, who en dull days, when the brokers are skylarking, will raise an umbrella and run into the trading ring and hold it over as many truders as he can. They scamper like a flock of frightened sheep.—New York Cor. Globe-Democrat.

During the Honeymoon. Chicago Young Husband - And will never take the wedding ring from your

Chicago Young Wife-Never, George; death or diverce will alone remove it.— The Epoch.

Relies in a Swiss Museum. museum in Neuchatel is an unuinteresting one, and the traveler does not experience that sensation of wearines which is often felt in visits to similar places. One room is filled with animals, stuffed of course, which are found in the higher Alps, many of which are now extinct. Wolves, white and brown bears, foxes, white hares, chamois steinbocks, all are there, most beautifully stuffed and preserved. I have said that some of these animals are no longer to be found in the mountains, but it would have been more correct to have stated that they have retreated before the civilizing hand of man, for it is believed that bears, and certainly wolves, are to be found on the higher peaks, where no foot

of Alpine climber has penetrated.

In the next room are the models of the lake houses and the curious relics of the ages of stone and bronze which have been found imbedded in the mud and slime at the bottom of the lake. The date of these remains cannot be determined. Opinions differ, but all agree on one point-that they certainly existed before the time of Julius Cæsar. The houses were cleverly built on four iron rods sunk deeply in the mud at the bottom of the lake and supporting a kind of platferm, on which the hut rested, and the inhabitants reached the shore by means of canoes made of hollowed trees. The

reason apparently of their choosing the lake as a dwelling place was to protect themselves from the numbers of wild and fierce animals with which the country was infested. Indeed it is evident that it was then little more than a vast marsh or morass.

In the same room with the models are some grotesque ornaments worn by the woman and some equally extraordinary weapons worn by the men. In another room are the skulls of some of these ancient beings. Very flat and receding are they, and the inspection goes far to

There is no national costume worn by the Neuchatel peasantry now, but in many of the cottages you may see old pictures, roughly but brightly colored, representing the dress worn in days long gone by. A delightful excursion is by the little lake steamer as far as Morat, a quaint old world town about three hours' distance from Neuchatel. Here are funny old streets, narrow and furnished with arcades built of stone, under which are the oddest little shops imaginable.-Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

Gluttony Versus Intellectuality. Gluttony tends to cynicism. Coarseness and extravagance of speech and manners go hand in hand with dietetic excesses, as, for cognate reasons, the repulsiveness of voracious animals is generally aggravated by a want of cleanliness. Among the natives of the Arctic regions, where climatic causes make Some stock brokers think it is very good | gluttony a pandemic vice, personal cleanliness is an almost unknown virtue, and Kane's anecdotes of polar household habits depict a degree of squalor that would appall a gorilla. Habitual abstemiousness, on the other hand, is the concomi-tant of modesty, thrift, self control and evenness of temper, and is compatible with heroic perseverance, though hardly with great energy of vital vigor. The dietetic self denials of Luigi Cornaro, a Venetian nobleman of the Sixteenth century, enabled him to outlive the third generation of his epicurean relatives. During the latter decades of his long life he boasts of having enjoyed a peace of mind unattainable by other means. There are intellectual voluptuaries

whose enjoyment of mental triumphs in controversy or cogitation seem, for the time being, actually to deaden their craving for material food. Isaac Newton, on the track of a cosmic secret, would send back plate after plate of untasted meals. back plate after plate of untasted meals. Percy Shelley, in the words of his sprightly biographer, "indignantly refused to alloy the nectar of poetic inspiration with boarding house soup," and in his creative moods rarely answered a dinner call without a sigh of regret. Benedict Spinoza, amid the parchment piles of his bachelor den, would fast for days in the ecstasy of his "Gott trunkenen"—"God intoxicated"—meditations.—Dr. Felix L. Oswald in Open Court.

Medical Value of Peppermint Oil. In addition to being, from its potency and other advantages, the best of surgical antiseptics, it is possible that there lies in oil of peppermint a power for good and a field of therapeutic utility vaster in extent and importance than any yet known or suspected. Some cases of phthisis, in which I have employed it as an inhalation, lead me to hope that we may find in it a property assistant the state of the s may find in it a remedy against the scourge to which we pay annually a tribute of 10,000 lives.

In diphtheria, the greatest of all desiderata has always been such an anti-septic as this—one which may be fear-lessly applied in the greatest quantity and the greatest frequency; which is innecuous, whether it be swallowed during
its application, or be respired into the
air passages, and which, by its absorption into the blood and its ready volatility, is enabled to penetrate to every recess, and be carried through all the tis-

cess, and be carried through all the tissues. Two cases of typical diphtheria in male adults, part of a small epidemic, some among the victims of which died with its worst features, have been treated by applications of oil of peppermint.

These cases afford ground for believing, therefore, that this drug may be also a potent weapon in diphtheria. Recovering so completely and so speedily as they did, their progress resembles neither that of "ordinary" ulcerated pharyngitis, treated or not by the usual means, nor of diphtheria as it has progressed in cases I have seen treated by the inefficient local antiseptics in vogue.—London Lancet.

antiseptics in vogue.-London Lancet. Relief for Try Polsoning.

I was repeatedly poisoned by ivy when a boy, and found no relief till an uncle told my mother to give me a tablespoonbefore eating during the month of May, and I never would be poisoned again. She followed his directions, and the result was I never have been poisoned since, although I was exposed to it more or less each summer for a number of years afterward. The above may not be a sure cure in all cases, but it is worth trying, as it can do no harm if it does no good.—Albert S. Trask in Scientific American.

The Ruling Passion.

Life was ebbing fast and his hours were few He was a Third avenue elevated brakeman, and eating his meals between stations had sapped his vitality.

"My dear young friend," said the min ister at his bedside, "I trust that what has been so graciously vouchsafed to me to say will comfort and sustain you. I will leave you now for the present."

"Very well, sir," responded the sick man, feebly. "Step lively, please."—New York Sun. ful of thoroughwort tea each morning

A JUDGE'S EXPERIENCE.

HE THINKS LAZINESS IS THE CHIEF CAUSE OF CRIME.

The Results of Judge Duffy's Observations as a Judge in Police Courts-Reformation of Criminals-Evils of Tenement Houses-Idlers.

From my experience as a judge in police courts, I should say that laziness is the chief cause of crime. The young man who is inherently lazy will steal rather than work. According to the Scriptures a man should earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, but in our large cities there are thousands of men who will do neither mental nor manual work, and who prefer to get their living by preying upon the community in some form or other Young criminals are born bad. You cannot expect that the sons or the daughters of a thief or a burglar will be naturally good. Their whole surroundings are bad; nearly every influence that is exerted upon them from childhood up tends to make them as bad as their progenitors. Even girls and boys inclined to be good may, by contagion, become bad.

REFORMATION OF CRIMINALS. We have many institutions in this city for the reformation of criminals of both sexes, but I think that very few of the vicious are reformed in such places. My experience with law breakers justifies the truth of the saying "Once a thief always a thief;" once let a boy get con-taminated with the poison of crime and he will live and die an outlaw of society. In the court room I can tell at a glance children who have been brought up in reformatories-their manner is deceitful and they have a hang dog, crouching expression of countenance

In my official career I have met a great many criminals, and I must confess that among them I have never known of a genuine case of reform Quite a long time strengthen one's belief in Darwin's theory that their possible ancestors may have been an ape like tribe.

There is no national costume worm by offense sooner or later, more hardened than ever Once in a great while a man who has gone wrong will attempt to re-form, but that is exceptional. Burglars will die burglars; pickpockets cannot be reformed, and confidence men would rather get half a dollar by practicing their beguiling mathods than gare \$5 homestly. beguiling methods than earn \$5 honestly in the same length of time. It is indeed true that to them stolen fruit is always the sweetest.

Crime, however, is no more prevalent in New York than it is in any country village in proportion to the population.
I have visited every large city in the
United States, and most of the large cities of Europe I have made inquiries in re gard to crime and I have come to the con clusion that New York, notwithstanding that it is a rendezvous for criminals from all parts of the world, is comparatively as free from crime as any city in the uni-

CHEAP LODGING HOUSES. What is called the tenement house system causes an immense amount of crime. In tenement houses people are obliged to herd together in such a way that the rising generation cannot help witnessing the meretricious relations that exist be tween the sexes in these dwellings. Free reading rooms, lectures, etc., diminish crime to a certain extent, but the ten cent lodging houses more than counterbalance the good done by all the former. Such lodging houses have caused more destitution, more beggary and crime than any other agency I know of. Mechanics and laborers were better off years ago wher they had to pay from \$2.50 to \$5 a week for their board in regular boarding houses. Mechanics nowadays seem to have got into Bohemian habits; they are like the gypsies, they are shiftless and love to wander from place to place, content if they can supply the absolute needs of the passing moment. I think that the cheap lodging houses ought to be abolished by the board of health.

the board of health.

I believe, however, that promiscuous alms giving is wrong. The public would be showing more charity and humanity by giving nothing to street beggars, because if a tramp can make a dollar or two a day by begging he will not work. I would like to see a stringent law passed making it obligatory upon every able bodied man, rich or poor, to perform some kind of work. Every man in the community should be compelled to produce something. In my opinion the saddest sight to be seen in a large city like this is the number of idlers, young and middle aged number of idlers, young and middle aged men, looking out of windows on such thoroughfares as Broadway and Madison avenue—club men, sighing for some new pleasure; men who never did a stroke of real work and who never had a dozen original thoughts in their lives. It would be a good thing if such men, even if they are the sons of rich parents, were compelled to work.—P. G. Duffy in The Epoch.

The Family Oven in Greece. On inquiry I found that there was not, as a rule, in Greece, as there is in New England, any regular day for baking Washing and baking take place when these are needed The cooking is done, in many instances, out of doors. Immediately outside of the house, close to the corner, you often see the family oven. It is like a huge here a gar made of baked ture, which is the door, and at the apex is a small vent for the escape of the smoke. This is closed by a stone as soon as the cooking is done. A large number of the houses consisted of four walls of stone, covered with a flat roof overspread with earth or grassy turf. Where there was any escape for the smoke, it was a rude chimney consisting of four small piles of stone, which supported a flat slab, to prevent the wind of heaven from interto prevent the wind of heaven from inter-fering with the smoke But I found in many instances in Megara, and elsewhere in Greece, that the smoke was allowed the freedom of the house, and, where it did not creep out unwillingly through some doubtful hole in the roof, it generally occupied itself with blackening the rafters cupied itself with blackening the rafters or inducing a certain lachrymose condition of the eyes, which was extremely painful. Owing to the steepness of the hill, the wall which we passed in the rear of the house was often not more than a few feet above the level of the street.—Corinth Cor Boston Globe.

The Ruling Passion.

DECORATION OF INTERIORS.

Use of Wood Vencery Instead of Wall Paper-Embossed Wood.

The process for preparing wood used for interior decoration was invented by Charles W Spurr, of Boston. He has a very re-markable knowledge of woods and helped to make the collection which Mr. Morris K. Jessup, the banker and philanthropist has presented to the Museum of Natural History Until Mr Spurr found the secret of making good veneers, which is to cut the wood thin, furniture men and wood dealers were trying to see how thick they could make them so as to prevent the warping which was invariably taking place, and making the experiments un-

Wood may be cut as thin as the 300th part of an inch, when it is like paper. It is not useful in this state. That which is cut to the thickness of the 100th or the 150th part of an inch and lined with paper is used for the decoration of walls and ceilings. This neither shrinks nor swells, there not being enough of it for the at-mosphere to affect. In one room, where it was put on eighteen years ago, it is in as good condition as when it was first ap plied. The smooth surface of an ordinary pasteboard wall or ceiling is the best foundation for it. All holes and cracks must be evenly filled with plaster of paris. If the wall is new it is glue sized as if for wall paper Then it is ready for the wood in panels, frieze or molding, perfectly plain and simple, or very elaborate. The wall is first covered with cloth put on with common flour paste. The veneers are dampened with a preparation of glycerine and water, which softens them, and when dry leaves them pliable. A paste is then rubbed over the wood as ve cloth covered wall, and the former care fully and smoothly applied. Scarcely a more difficult task than putting on wall paper. There are no fewer than forty kinds of wood from which to select the ornamentation of a house interior. Sometimes two or three are mingled in one

room, with a surprisingly beautiful effect. A checker board pattern of curly maple is about as thick as a piece of cardboard. To produce it strips of wood were first woven in and out and then subjected to heat and pressure, which made it one smooth mass, varied in hue as if it were composed of two kinds of wood. Cherry, oak and mahogany are on the top notch of esteem for this sort of decoration as well furniture at the present moment.

Embossed wood resembles carving, and while it is not meant exactly to take the place of it, is rich enough in itself to demand attention and to be used for endless purposes of utility and ornament. It is not cheap enough to become common. The original patterns for the work are carved by hand Molds from these models are then made, on which the wood is placed after being softened. They are then submitted to 250 degrees of heat and great pressure. When taken from the hydraulic press they are much too hot to touch for some time. It is easy to see that such a process naturally prevents any shrinkage afterward.

A ceiling of one of the parlor cars on the Old Colony railroad is decorated with these embossed and plain woods, and is prized so highly by the company that the car is only in service during the summer months. Book binding is another use to which the wood has recently been put Poems by Pope and Jean Ingelow, issued last year, are enveloped in a covering of wood and tied with different colored rib bons.-New York Press.

Children's Dress in Algiers.

The boys, when running about, wear nothing but a long white chemise and dark blue vest, but of all bewitching creatures in the world the little girls can creatures in the world the little girls can The boys, when running about, wear scarcely be surpassed. They are every where, and must strike a stranger, cer-tainly an artist, as a prominent feature of interest. Some are going to the baker's, carrying unbaked loaves piled on a plank on the head, others, with little brass bound buckets brimming with milk; singly, in crowds, always fascinating, not only pretty, but arrayed in an infinite variety of costumes, they dart from shadow into sunlight, and disappear in a twink-ling round a corner or through a doorway.

They wear, first, a white chemise with They wear, first, a white chemise with gauze sleeves, over it a gandoura, or chemise without sleeves, and reaching nearly to the ankles, usually of printed calico, glaring in color, and with spots, stripes, birds, branches and leaves: this gandoura is sometimes of rich brocade or light silk, over the first they often were light silk; over the first they often wear a second gandoura of tulle with a design in it, ordinarily nothing more nor less than common white lace-curtain stuff. All the materials hang limp and flutter when they run; round the waist a broad ceinture, and over the shoulders a little bodice. On the head a conical cap, always of crimson velvet, more or less ornamented with gold thread; children and unmarried girls wear them with a strap under the chin; married women tie them on with a colored hand kerchief besides the strap.—F. A. Bridg-man in Harper's Magazine.

Better Than an Accident Policy.

It is proverbial that a drunken man It is proverbial that a drunken man seldom gets hurt—in fact, a good load of whisky is said to be better than an accident insurance policy. A few days ago some young fellows were watching with interest the efforts of a pedestrian along Dearborn street to make his course a little less zigzag. It was the width of the walk that bothered him rather than the length when a sudden sidelong classes. length, when a sudden sidelong plunge threw him up against an ash receiver that stood upon the edge of the pavement, and over it he went, turning a complete somersault, landing flat on his back in the gutter with a crash that would have broken every bone in a sober man's body. Amusement was quickly changed to anxiety, and one of the spectators, rushing across to the prostrate man, endeavored to raise him, and seeing signs of life, asked him where he lived. The answer satisfied him that there was no occasion for alarm. "Where do I live?" said the man. "I live right here; come in, boys; what'll you take?"—Chicago Herald.

Ladies' Shoes Too Small. If women would wear the size shoe they

need I would like it better, but they won't if they know it. Do you know what a large 41 shoe is? Well, now, I will tell you in confidence-it is a seven. When a woman asks for that kind of shos I mark the number from a pair of sevens, fit it on her feet and she goes away delighted. But three fourths of the ladies have too small shoes. I stand by my door on Sunday and watch the pretty girls go by to church. They are very sweet, bright eyed, red cheeked and straight limbed. God made them very good—but they can's walk in a straight line, they go dipping and dodging all over the walk in crooked paths, like the wicked the Bible tells about. Why is that I They are looking for soft stones in the walk—smooth places—because their feet hurt so badly. They cannot step square and stand on the curbstone, and they dread to put the foot down on the cross walk.—New York Sun. woman asks for that kind of shoe I mark

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