age annual crop for many years been estimated by experts, aided ficial statistics, at over 8,000,000. 90,000 bushels, exceeding the average mausi crop of grain by fully 750,000,hele. In volume of production the United States stands fifth on a list of five countries which are the largest fucers, and whose average annual is are estimated in bushels as folws: Germany, 784,000,000; Russia, \$21,860,960; France, 385,000,000; Aus-285,000,000; United States. 180,000,000. The average annual of potatoes in this about 200,000 barrels are sch berrel containing from two and a half to two and three-quarters bushels, or a total of from 5,000,000 to 5,500,000 shels. Of this great supply an average quantity of about 260,000 barrels is exported to the West Indies, the Havana steamships each carrying from 1,000 to 2,500 barrels a trip, or about 1,000 barrels weekly, leaving about 1,740 barrels for consumption in and around the metropolis.

The local supply of potatoes is received from different sources at different times of the year. The new Bermuda crop begins to arrive about Feb. 1, and comes in at an average weekly rate of about 2,500 barrels, which, under ordinary conditions, are usually sold for from \$5 to \$7 a barrel at wholesale. The Florida crop, which is comparatively small, begins to arrive about April 1, and is usually sold at about the same prices as are received for the Bermuds potatoes. A month or two later Georgia potatoes begin to arrive from Savannah, and are received at the rate of about 10,000 barrels a week their wholesale price generally ranging from \$3 to \$6 a barrel. Supplies come from seaboard cities further north as the year advances till the latter part of July, after which the metropolitan rket is mainly supplied by Long island and New Jersey, whose early crops are dug in July and August, and late crops in September. There are usuaited supplies also received from Canada and Scotland, but on account of the present enormous domestic crop the importations from those places this year will be insignificant. A small supply is generally received late in December from Bermuda, but it is too insignificant to have any appreciable effect on the market.

There are only ten States in the Union which extensively produce potatoes for shipment to markets beyond their own borders. They are Maine, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Virginia. Tennessee may soon be added to this list, as her oct is steadily and rapidly increasng, and among her potato plantations there is a single one which has over 1,000 acres under cultivation.—New Tork Tribune

Took the Hint Clapp was a shrewd detective and a ost excellent judge of human nature. He could tell a rogue as far off as he could a black man, and he never made

An instance of his readiness in reading character occurred one morning in court. A case of considerable interest was being tried, and the gallery was crowded with spectators.

Two or three reporters were sitting sear the door when Clapp, stooping over, whispered:

"Don't all look at once, but please beerve that nice-looking man with the white cravat in the front seat of

the gallery in the middle." "Now," continued Clapp, "I'll send that man flying out of court on the ble quick in less than five minutes, por will I leave the room or send him

a message." While we were wondering how the feat was to be accomplished, the veteran quickly beckoned to a police officer, and, taking a pair of handcuffe from his pocket, directed the officer's attention to the party in the gallery. and apparently gave him some direc-

The man made his way toward the loor, and at the same instant the genan with the white cravat bolted like lightning through the crowd to the oer and disappeared.
"Gentlemen," remarked Clapp, "I

never saw that man before in my life."

Plants Thrive on a Meat Diet. has been proven time and again hat the so-called "cannibal plants," of which the Venus figurap is the type, are muck more healthy when allowed their ar insect food than they are when ed under netting or in any other er which excludes them from ir regular mest diet. The above is ity in itself, especially when we the fact that there is a certain of botanists which teaches canal plants make no use whatever of et prey captured by them, but ing compared with the bold made by Francis Darwin. ed scientific gentleman bravely "vegetarian botanists" with som that all kinds and classes s, whether known as "meat-er not, bear more and heavier when fed on meat than at are not allowed a fiesh diet. two lots, comprising various of the different common One let was regularly fed their roots of course

while the unfed plants of the same number and original condition bore but seventy-four. Also that the pampered plants bore 240 seeds to every 100 borne by the plants that were not given a chance to gratify cannibalistic tastes. This is certainly a discovery worthy of much careful study and extensive experiment.-8t Louis Republic.

Russian Borrers In Russia begging is just as much a recognized profession as the law or medicine, and many a skillful beggar has a much larger income at his command than a lawyer or a doctor. Russian beggars are organized upon scientific principles, and, according to a labor commission report, form regular trade unions. Some of them follow their profession the year round; others only at stated seasons; others go on begging expeditions when the weather is fine and live on the spoils when it is bad.

There are many distinctions of rank

among them. The Sondogola beggars,

for instance, who work on the soil for six months of the year, are socially of no account whatever: whereas the Kalouni, who would as soon think of fiving as of working, are quite important personages aristocrats of beggardom, in fact. The Kalouni call themselves "collectors," and their chief business is to direct the begging operations of others. As a rule, two Kalouni enter into partnership and gather around them a little company of assistants four or five children, and perhaps two adults chosen especially on account of their infirmities. Woe be to the one who goes about with a cheerful air, or is heard to laugh in public. When the firm is ready for action, the Kalouni, who are often capitalists in their way, buy a horse and large cart, and set out in the world. They go hundreds of miles from their homes, sometimes wandering from village to village, from town to town. In a fairly good district they will clear as much as thirty shillings a week-a huge sum in Russia. where thousands of men earn less than sixpence a day, and women are paid for their work about a farthing an hour. The assistants, who do all the begging. receive their food, the shelter of the cart, and perhaps a few rags for clothing-nothing more. All that is given to them must be yielded up to their employers, and dire is the punishment that befalls them if they are detected keeping back a few kopecks for their

Speaking Up for Old Ireland. An English gentleman addicted to

field aports arrived in Cork last autumn, and engaged a car and driver to convey him to a village some miles from the city. On the way the traveler remarked: "Ought to be a good country for same

"Game is it, your honor?" was the

reply. "Shure, there's oshins av it?" "Any snipe?"

"Ay, is there! there's more snipe nor peelers, an' more peelers nor praties, an' that's savin' a good dale." "Plenty of pheasants and grouse, too

"Faith, there's no supposin' at all about it; there's millions av 'em-so

Having proceeded some miles and not seeing a feather, the Englishman

bserved, sarcastically: "H'm, yes; plenty of small game, but don't think there are any phonographs in these parts."

"Arrah! don't be talkin'; shure, after a bit av a frost the whole counthry side, and more 'speshly the ploughed lan,' does be swarmin' wid them.' No more questions.

A Bow-and-Arrow Duel. Although the silly and wicked cus tom of dueling is still practiced in Germany. France, and elsewhere, it has been extinct in the United Kingdom for perhaps half a century. The two fighters generally used swords, or pistola, but there is on record a case in which two men met in the Meadows at Edinburgh, on the 10th of February. 1791, to satisfy their "wounded honor" with bows and arrows. Each combatant had a second, but there was only one surgeon between the two. After firing three shots apiece without hitting anything in particular excepting Mother Earth, the two archers parted, their honor, no doubt, being greatly the better for the pleasing pastime. Still, the Scotsmen were shrewd and canny enough to choose weapons that gave both of them a very fair chance of coming out of the encounter unharmed, whatever might have happened to a mere onlooker or even a Dasser-by.

Suicide of a Wasp. A short time ago M. Henry, a Frenchman, being curious to see the effects of pensine on a wasp, put some of it under a glass in which a wasp was imprisoned. The wasp immediately showed signs of great approvance and anger. darting at a piece of paper which had introduced the benzine into his cell. By and by he seems to have given up the unequal contest in despair, for he lay down on his back and, bending up his abdomen, planted his sting twice into his body and then died. M. Henry allowed his scientific interest to oversome his humanity so far as to repeat the experiment with three wasps, only to find that the other two did likewise. He is therefore of the opinion that wasps under desperate circumstances

The word "crank" is frequently used. its origin may not be generally known. The cranke was one of the rogues and ragabonds of Shakspeare's time. It was the character same of one who feigned the falling sickness.

some the Sakime Tongue.

FAMED DEAD BEATS.

Mon Who Live Upon the Industry of

The fact is this city swarms with dishonest persons-whole families I mean who move from flat to flat without payment of rent. I am not exaggerating the least bit when I say that there are hundreds of families in this city of seeming respectability who have scarcely paid \$100 a year in rent in the last five years. And they have lived in very nice apartments, too, apartments costing anywhere from \$50 to \$150 a

"Why, how in the world is that managed?" I asked.

"It is very easily done," replied the real estate man, "or rather it was very easily done before we west side agents were forced last summer to combine for self-protection. But, notwithstanding all our efforts, flats are so numerous and competition among owners and agents is so brisk that there is still plenty of opportunity. After the regular spring renting season is over, say in midsummer, the owner of an apartment house with several flats vacant is, you know, willing to make concessions. These concessions are not usually in the way of a reduction of rental, but consist in giving one or two months' rent free, say until the regular fall season begins again. The man bent on beating the agent takes advantage of these conditions. He picks out two or more flats and plays the agents against each other for the best terms obtains-He does not ask a reduction of rent, but secures just as long a prelim-

inary period rent free as possible. "He puts on a good front, refers to several persons who know him in a social way and are free about vouching for his respectability, and takes the apartment. He asks for and gets recelpts for the rept of the months he gets free and moves in, bag and baggage. All goes well until the time comes for the payment of the first month's rent. The mon y does not come, and the collector never finds him at home. His wife makes excuses and assures the agent that be is 'all right.' "So time goes on, and the next month's rent becomes due. The agent begins to get a little slarmed and writes some pressing letters. They are answered in a lofty manner, with assurances that as soon as ertain expected remittances come in a check will be sent. The agent sees the tenant's references again, all of whom say, no doubt in good faith, that they have always found him a man of his word, and that he will undoubtedly pay up. An other month passes, and then the agent is satisfied he has a beat on his hands. He takes legal messures to dispossess him, which also requires time, and it generally happens that the beat, who has meantime made arrangements for another flat in a distant part of the town, packs up and moves off before the summons can be served. And so it ably be induced to settle in northern goes on. Occasionally the beat gets caught for a little rent. Perhaps he falls to secure a new flat before he gets ousted from the one ha la living in and has to settle down ou a hard cash basis for a month or two till he can a fresh start "-New York H

The Engineer Was Color Blind. A story is told of the late Railroad sloper Stevens, on the occasion of the rear-end collision at Wes somerville three or four years ago. The engineer of the following train was careless, and ran by two red lights without a stop. At the hearing the engineer testified regarding the lights, and said they were set at white. After the other commissioners had asked the witness all the questions they could think of, Mr. Stevens quietly requested William, the office boy, to take "Baby Pathfinder" rallway guide, and hang it on the ventilator outside the window, but in full view of the witness and when his turn came to examine him, he merely asked the engineer what color the little book appeared to him The engineer squinted at the book which was some twenty feet away, and then said, in a rather uncertain tone that it was sort of brownish. This was all that Mr. Stevens had to say to the witness, but the cause of the accident was pretty conclusively proved to have been due to color blindness of the engineer, for, as everybody knows, all the "Baby Pathfinders" are bright red.-Boston Traveler.

A man is known by the questions he asks. And the same is true of a woman. Mr. Hayes has a mind that delights in facts. He collects them as a boy collects postage stamps. The other night he laid down his paper, was silent a moment, and then said:

"That's odd." What is it?" asked his wife.

Why, here is a man who save the it would take twelve million years to pump the sea dry at the rate of a bousand gallons a second." The wife sat thinking the matter

over. Then she said: "Where would they put all the

A Mulberry's Growth.

In the year 1834 Captain A. S. Allen. hen a boy on his father's farm near Zebulon, Ga., stuck a mulberry sprout in the ground. At that time the was not larger than a lead pencil, and had been used by the boy as an ox "gad." To-day it is a tree almost nine een feet in circumference at a distance of two feet from the ground, and is said to be the largest mulberry tree in

Bacon-Does that young man who is saying attention to your daughter save at a sensonable hour at night? t-Yes: I have no reason to kick

DESERT OSTRICH FARMS. Rearing the Clast Birds Among the

A writer in La Revue Scientifique suggests that the French Sahara, upon the southern edge of Algeria, may be profitably used for the breeding of ostriches. The Barbary ostrich was once greatly prized for its plumage, and the ostrich feather houses of Paris made their reputation by the curling of these

plumes. The wild Barbary ostrich is nearly extinct, so that there are no more mes of the sort to be had, and the Parisian houses have lost their nonopoly of ostrich feather curling. Indoed, a large portion of the business has been transferred to other countries, notably the United States. It is estimated that the world uses annually about \$20,000,000 worth of ostrich plumes, and the writer in La Revue Scientifique save that in view of the early adoption of the European dress in the East, es pecially in China and Japan, the demand for this sort of personal adornment is likely to increase. He urges. too, that the increased use of ostrich feathers throughout the civilized world is likely to protect other birds of fine plumage from destruction, and he calls upon the various societies interested in

making ostrich plumes more fashions-

ble than ever. It is believed that there are now in south Africa at least 350,000 ostriches. domesticated and bred for their plumage, and the writer savs that there is no reason why northern Africa should not become quite as important a region in this industry. The Sahara, it is explained, is by no means the exclusively arid and sandy waste that the popular imagination makes it. The ostrick cannot exist in the absolutely dry por tions of the Sahara, but there are large areas which are not, properly speaking. oases, but they do produce considerable vegetation. It is upon these areas that the French people are urged to undertake ostrich farming. There have been two or three unsuccessful experiments to this end in Algeria upon the edge of the desert, but they have falled for reasons that would not necessi tate fallure in other parts of the desert. It is true, the writer admits, that the Sahara can probably never maintain a large European population, but he notes that it is the cases and not the less fertile parts of the desert that are particularly unwholesome for Europeans. He believes there is a large field for immigration in parts of the French Sahara that are suitable for ostrich farming, and urges that the War Department should aid in establishing the industry; that the natives could be directed by French immigrants and Paris could recover something like her manopoly of the ostrich curling business.

Africa. We Shall Fly By and By

He points out that 30,000 Frenchmen

emigrate to America every year, and

thinks that some of these might profit-

Mr. Hiram Maxim, in an article is the new number of the North American Review upon "Birds in Flight and the that it is possible to make a machine that has sufficient power to lift itself into the air without the agency of a balloon, so it now only remains that I should obtain very much larger premises, unincumbered by trees or buildings, where I can learn to maneuver my machine.

"I am only able to devote a small fraction of my time to these experiments. as I am, and have been for many years. the managing director of a great English company, but I have put in all the time that I had to spare for the last five years, and the experiments have led me to believe that the flight of man is possible even with a steam engine and boller."

Mr. Maxim advises young engineers if they wish to do something to ad vance the science of aviation, to turn their thoughts in the direction of a petroleum motor. Petroleum may be obtained in any quarter of the globe. and no other substance that we can obtain on a commercial scale contains such an enormous quantity of latent energy.

Women Agriculturists.

A farmer's wife wants to discover the reason why farmers' boys are provided with agricultural colleges while girls are left to get along as best they may Why not introduce co-education in the agricultural colleges? she asks. In Minnesota there is a girls' school of agriculture, which is, so far as known, the only one in the country. It is quite old now and the results are quite satisfactory. The students receive instruction in cooking, canning, household chemistry, entomology and sewing This plan of educating the women with the men is working finely in Denmark, and if once our women are roused to a sense of this opportunity such education might work wonders for our farming districts.

An Odd Injury. Russell Daggett, of Lewiston, Me., was in the United States navy during the war, and a block fell from a rigging one day and knocked his right arm out of place at the shoulder. Since then the arm has troubled him exceedingly. It will allp out of place at the slightest provocation. One day recently a lot of boys got into his orchard and were stealing his fruit when he saw then and gave chase. Stepping into a bole he fell, and in falling tried to save his week arm by falling on the other, but for the first time in his life the left arm was thrown out at the shoulder just as the other oge had been. He had it set and is doing well.

Poor Holland's Navy. Holland's navy has grown antiquated. It will take \$20,000,000 to put it into working order, but the ministry does not dare to ask for the money.



A Cheap but Durable Road. Avoid all steep grades, and where sufficient gravel is not near to make a road that will not get muddy, put in a pavement of poles, like the old corduroy roads, and spike on this by beveled edges two steel rails about twelve inches wide by one-fourth inch thick for the wheels to run on, says the Agri culturist. At the present low prices of steel rails and spikes, the metal for the protection of such birds to aid in such a road would cost but little over \$4 per rod, or less.

Making Better Roads.

Capt. Sligh with his chain gang have been doing some good work on the public roads in the Crane Creek section of the county. The roads there have been in very bad shape, and Capt. Sligh has been remedying these bad places and has put them in splendid condition. The improvements are evident on every hand. The chain gang system has been a great success in this county, and the prisoners who generally lie up in jail are made to do work which has long been needed.-Columbia (8. C.) Register.

Bicyclers and Good Roads. Advocates of road improvement in town and country will welcome the "Federation of Wheelmen of Kansas City and Jackson County," which was organized Saturday night for the avowed purpose of accomplishing "good streets, good roads, proper street sprinkling and systematized street cleaning." The movement began with eighty-eight names subscribed to the constitution and by-laws, and the list includes some of the most prominent professional and business men in the community. With the wheelmen at work in aid of road Improvement, success is in sight. All men and women who ride the bicycle. and the number is increasing daily, will be interested in the movement, for it means more comfort and enjoyment and greater safety. By banding togeth er the wheelmen can exert an important influence in the local elections and make it possible to choose officials who are favorable to good roads and well-kept highways. - Kansas City Star.

Why Good Roads Are Needed. It is reasonable to predict that the road improvement is destined to spread with great rapidity in the next ten years, and that capital, which heretovestment in fine macadamized roads. says the New York Post. The first necessity for developing a country of the size of the United States was a system of railroads that would bind together the widely separated points of industry and population, and the construction of such a stupendous system absorbed most of the energy and capital of our financiers. But the country now is better supplied with railroads than any other on the face of the globe, and the limit to the extension of long railroad lines is practically reached in many parts of the country. It is impossible to have every small hamlet and village connected with the main ratiroad lines by short branches, but the transports tion problem cannot be said to be solv ed until every small place and farm of any size is connected with the great arteries of commerce by means of fine macadamized roads. It is this necessity for building more and better common roads that makes the question such a burning one to-day. The next generation must devote itself to the construction and improvement of common roads, feeding the railroads with the products of the great agricultural

Favorite Perfumes Odors have played an important part

in the world's history. So far back as the fourteenth century the fad of the hour was the "Birds of Cyprus." They were aromatic herbs, ground and molded into the forms of birds, and they were burned at banquets. No description of their composition has come down through the ages, but the supposttion is to-day that they were very much the same as the "seraglio pastiles." which street venders, disguised as Turks, sell on the highways of continental capitals. Charles V. of France had among his most treasured posses sions, it is well known, a hollow golden pomegranate to hold his perfumes. Louis XIV, of France was given by the Queen of Biclly a rosary of musk Odorous chaplets were quite the fashion in those days, and they exist even now in some parts of Spain and in some quarters of the Orient. In the early part of the sixteenth contary the age of powder and cosmetics began, and the use of perfumes became widely spread. During the reign of Louis XV Versailles was known throughout the world as "the perfumed court." A century and a half before that powdered heads had come in, and this custom became so universal that the costume of deepest mourning and the greatest sorrow was to go unpowdered. The powder used was made of starch, and it seldom happened that it was left un-perfumed. To such an extent was the art of scenting the person carried that it was part of the imperial program to be adopted by the courtiers and great | so rest quietly."-Fig.

ladies in order that a minture of might not result. The revolution killed, of course, this gentle art, but under the influence of Josephine it was given & fresh impetus in directory days, for the Empress' Creole origin and temperament made her jealously and pass ately devoted to every sweet offer that could be devised. Chemistry has advanced so far that nowadays scents can be made without flowers quite as well as with them, and at much less expense. Still, however, in Roumania and in Asia Minor, the world-famed attar of roses continues to be made, a litre (approximately a quart) costing three thousand francs (six hundred dellars) at Constantinople. There is an imitation of this easence in distillation from the geraniums that are cultivated in immense fields in Algeria, but its spuriousness can be easily detected.

Lisbon.

I saw very few miserable people; begcars were not at all numerous; in a veek I was only asked twice for alms. One constantly hears that Lisbon is dirty, and as full of foul odors as Coleridge's cologne. I did not find it so, and the bright sunshine and the fine color of the houses might well compensate for some drawbacks. The houses of this regular town are white, and pale yellow, and fine worn-out pink, with narrow, green-painted verandas, which

soon lose crudeness in the intense light. The windows of the larger blocks are numerous, and set in long, regular lines; the streets, if narrow, run into open squares blazing with white, unsoiled monuments. All day long the ways are full of people, who are fairly but unostentatiously polite. They do not stare one out of countenance, however one may be dressed. In Antwerp, a man who objects to being wondered at may not wear a light suit. Lisbon is more cosmopolitan.

But the beauty of the town of Lisbon is not added to by the beauty of its inhabitants. The women are curiously the reverse of lovely. Only occasionally I saw a face which was attractive by theodd conjunction of an olive skin and light gray eyes. They do not wear mantillas. The lower classes use a shawl. Those who are of the bourgeois class or above it differ little from Londoners. The working or loafing men-for they laugh and loaf and work and chaff and chatter at every corner-are more distinct in costume, wearing the flat felt sombrero, with turned-up edges, that one knows from pictures, while the long coat, which has displaced the cloak, still retains a smack of it in the way they disregard the sleeves and hang it from their shoulders. The men are decidedly not so ugly as the women, and vary wonderfully in size, color and complexion, though a big Portuguese is a rarity. The strong point in both sexes is their natural gift for wearing color, and for choosing and blending or matching tints.

Keeping Track of Drummers In some houses that send out a great many drummers there are in use certain peculiar little maps pasted on the bottoms of cabinet drawers and constantly studied by the proprietors and

clerks. These maps are usually of one at a time, and are dotted with pegs or flags of many colors. The flags are tiny bits of colored cloth, with pins to serve as staffs.

The pegs are in reality tacks, with the heads covered with colored cloth. These maps show many things to those who study them. The different colored markers often represent different drummers who are then out on the road.

As each one writes home where he has been and where he is going next, his partefular peg is stuck upon the map at the places he names. The furthest peg away shows where that particular man is at any given time. Or. again, the pegs or flags may show much more than that

They may show what towns have been canvassed, what ones are finished, what ones need a second call in the winter, and which ones have not been visited at all. New York Sun.

More Gold.

Gold strikes of wonderful richness are reported to have been made in several parts of British Columbia in the last week or two. At Elburn, a few miles from Vancouver, a man boring for water in a lot adjoining the Methdist church, struck quantities of fiake gold 200 feet below the surface. He galloped into Westminster and staked his ciaim, and returned to prospect. His find ran nearly \$21 an ounce. It is believed he struck the bed of an old river, and prospects are being made all over the neighborhood. Blg strikes are reported from Cariboo County and from South Kootenai, twenty-five mines of excellent promise haing been recently opened in the latter re-

Elks in Harness,

A man living in Exeter, Ontario, has succeeded in breaking a pair of elks to harness. So accustomed have they become to the sights and sounds of city life that they are daily driven about the streets with perfect case and safety. In fact, the elks feel less excitement than they cause. They are perfectly matched in size, color and weight, and are driven in a light, but stoutly made two-wheeled cart, which they draw about the city and country roads at a brisk pace.

Duke of Westminster's Property. The Duke of Westminster him as not anything like an exact idea what his London property, if it were realized, would be worth. He do know, however, that the amount would be considerably in excess of \$60,000,000.

"Station master, are there no more trains to-day? I am looking for my

"No, there are no more trains to day;