

Noiseless powder is something the world never hears of.

As a fashionable disease, brain fog threatens to put appendicitis to bed.

If God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb He may take pity on some of the shearers also.

The dog is man's best friend. When a man has a cold the dog never tells him what to do for it.

A Minnesota man is said to have mastered the cat language. A charge of backshot sometimes masters this feline conversation quite neatly.

The New England woman who pretended suicide, and came home to find her husband married again, seems to have put up a fine joke on herself.

Astronomers say our sun is one of the younger set of stars. May not the spots now reported as having broken out be only a sort of infantile rash?

A New York beggar dropped dead when the police insisted that he should take a bath. He knew the dangers of exposing his system to these outside influences.

It is obviously incorrect to characterize some of those syndicate promoting schemes as gambling operations. In a gambling game the victim to be deceived is allowed to win a little something once in a while.

Dr. Wiley, chemist for the Department of Agriculture, says that woman has long hair because she is still a savage. Well, even so, keep her just as she is. Don't want high civilization and a head that looks like a quinine capsule.

A recent announcement of the British war office of medals awarded for distinguished service in Somaliland mentions the names of Sergeant Botes, Corporal Herbst and Trooper Dreyer, ad Boers, who are now fighting shoulder to shoulder with their former enemies. Rather a good omen.

Lieutenant Perry suggests that if Americans can spend millions to build yachts to defend the cup, they ought to build ships to go to the north pole. He says that the syndicate of sporting men that "lifts" the pole will have no successor and can never be beaten. Certainly the course would not be overcrowded with pleasure-boats.

General Booth proposes to stop wars by having each nation, whenever any of its territory is wanted by another, give up the land without first resorting to a test of strength. After he gets the nations to adopt this policy he might make the world still happier by inducing such individuals as Mr. Rockefeller and Mrs. H. Green to subscribe to it.

France and the French government have ceased to be objects of suspicion in the minds of the European monarchs. The kings and emperors have made many formal visits to Paris in recent years, and have been received by the president. This year, for the first time, the wife of the president had a place in the reception to royalty. Last summer Madame Loubet, as the social representative of the republic, welcomed the state visitors. History is full of the wonders worked by cultured and gracious women. The wife of the French president may some day be added to the list of feminine political magicians.

The steady concentration of the hunting and fishing privileges of America into the possession of clubs is illustrated by the reported lease of George W. Vanderbilt's famous North Carolina estate, Biltmore. A club of ten members will thus have a monopoly of 125,000 acres. It is true that in this case the land was already monopolized by a single owner, but this is not true of the holdings of most of the new clubs which are being organized all over the country. The obvious fact is that there is no longer, as formerly, enough game for everybody who cares to shoot or fish, and the time is near at hand when sport of this kind will be, as in England, the prerogative of a privileged few.

With a population of 3,000,000 Switzerland is without any coal supply of her own. None of her rivers is navigable and all her coal imports have to be brought in by rail, which makes it very expensive. Her coal bill is about \$12,000,000 a year. In order to make her outlay for fuel as economical as possible the government has decided to establish a federal testing station, attached to the leading institution for technical instruction at Zurich. At this station every kind of fuel used in the little republic is to be scientifically tested, to determine its exact heat-producing value, which will be made known to the public through periodical publications by the government. It is intended to reform the whole coal trade by substituting heat-producing value for weight as the basis of its price per ton.

Was there ever any doubt of the goodness of Maxine Gomez? The old man is gone. He never had a del-

lar that did not belong to his country, or a penny that was not the property of his soldiers. Cuba is free and grateful. She has not forgotten the dark days. So the Cuban Congress made Gen. Gomez a present of \$50,000, as a slight token of the regard the country has for the liberator. Fifty thousand dollars is a good deal of money. It is a fortune in Cuba. It means comfort for a grizzled veteran for the rest of his days. It takes from him every vestige of financial worry. But he would rather worry than be unfair. Maximo Gomez can not forget the brave fellows who fought with him, endured privation with him and suffered as much or more than he did. He has refused to cash the treasury warrant for the money till his soldiers are rewarded! There speaks the spirit of true brotherhood! You know now why Gomez's soldiers loved him, why they followed him cheerfully into the very jaws of death; why they sang when they were hungry and laughed at their wounds. They were led by a man. Cuba has paid a great tribute to her general. He has paid a greater tribute to the men behind the guns.

Since the last tuberculosis congress in Germany the interest of physicians and bacteriologists has been largely centered in the rapid development of theories regarding the prevention and cure of consumption. The announcement by Dr. Koch that consumption is not an inherited disease, that it is communicable and preventable, appears to be generally accepted by the medical fraternity. Beyond this there appears to be abundant ground for disagreement. The most revolutionary theory regarding the origin of the disease is proclaimed by Professor Von Behring, a noted German bacteriologist. He accepts the announcement of Dr. Koch, that consumption is not an inherited disease, as a proved scientific fact, but he challenges the correctness of his theories as to the cause and infectious character of the disease. He declares that consumption is not infectious in the ordinary sense, and is not acquired by inhalation of germs in the air; that it is not communicated to adults from cattle through milk; that it is conveyed during infancy through mother's milk, and that about 90 per cent. of persons over 30 years old have the germs in their bodies and consume the germs daily. It is Professor von Behring's contention that the infant stomach has not the same power of digesting the germs as the stomach of an older person. In the infantile body the bacilli find a favorable breeding place, and remain quiescent until the body stops growing when they take on new life. He cites the fact in support of his theory that in many families a few of the offspring have the disease, while one or two escape and are healthy and strong-lunged. The obvious deduction from Professor von Behring's theory is that consumption might be stamped out and the chain of continuity broken by feeding infants upon nothing but sterilized material.

The statistics for insurance against sickness in Hungary show that the number of insured increased from 635,350 to 637,343 in 1901. Dependancy is the chief cause of suicide, and business losses are more potent factors in driving individuals to the commission of rash deeds than ill health, insanity, disappointment in love, or strong drink.

Imports of wood into Germany from the United States have more than trebled since 1880, amounting in 1902 to more than \$5,850,000. It consisted mostly of pine wood. This wood is more resistant to the weather and costs much less than oak. It is used for making doors, windows, floors, etc., while oak is used in the manufacture of the finer grades of furniture.

An apparatus in use in Germany for the purification of milk by ozonization is so constructed that the milk contained in a vessel flows thence in a thin stream into another vessel placed below. The wires and carbon points of a strong electric battery are so arranged that the light air passes through the stream or near it. The ozone which is thereby engendered from the oxygen of the air is said to be sufficient to kill all micro-organisms contained in the milk.

MODEL OF THE TABERNACLE.

The tabernacle erected in the wilderness by Moses during the journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to the Holy Land has been reproduced in miniature and in costly detail at Utrecht, Holland, in the biblical museum. It is by far the most interesting sight in the museum. Raised about table-height above the level of the ground, the court of the tabernacle is no less than twenty feet long by about ten feet wide, and is strewn with sand brought from the wilderness of Sinai where the actual tabernacle was first pitched, and is surrounded by curtains of fine linen made expressly for the model from Egyptian flax.

Sixty pillars of pure silver uphold the curtains. The altar of burnt offering is made of stone taken from one of the original walls of the Temple platform at Jerusalem and it is filled within with earth brought from the Haram area—the site of the ancient temple of the Jews. The seven branched candlestick, ark, incense altar, table of shewbread are made in pure gold and are veritable works of art. Two miniature tables of stone, made from a piece of granite rock of Mount Sinai, on which are engraved the ten commandments in minute Hebrew characters, may be found in the ark. The model represents years of patient study and work. The most skilled artificers have been employed upon it and no expense has been spared in the attempt to render the smallest details accurately and with scrupulous precision.

Mountains of Alum in China. In China, about 12 miles from the village of Lion-Chek, there is a mountain of alum, which, in addition to being a natural curiosity, is a source of wealth for the inhabitants of the country, who dig for it yearly tons of alum. The mountain is not less than 10 miles in circumference at its base and has a height of nearly 2,000 feet. The alum is obtained by quarrying large blocks of stone, which are first heated in great furnaces and then in vats filled with boiling water. The alum crystallizes and forms a layer about 6 inches in thickness. This layer is subsequently broken up into blocks weighing about 10 pounds each.

In the Clouds. "What are you moving over so far for?" asked the young man passenger on the air ship. "Well," answered the sweet young thing, "we're going to pass through another dark cloud in a minute, and you wrinkle my waist dreadfully every time you kiss me."—Indianapolis.

Topic Times

The onion is a delicacy of the month.

The average journey of a ton of weight is 128 miles.

There were 3,700 American tourists in Switzerland last summer.

Seven Kentucky feuds have resulted in 250 murders and but two hangings.

The paper bills of the United States printing office amount to \$750,000 a year.

The capital of the railroads is more than five times as great as that of all the banks.

There are nearly 6,000,000 farms in the United States, the average size being 140 acres.

More than one-third of the inmates of the Elmira (N. Y.) State's prison are well educated.

In the Santa Clara Valley, California, five square miles are devoted to the raising of onion seeds.

Within fifty years Russia has acquired new territory which in area is larger than the United States.

A child of 10 years should weigh 90½ pounds, have a height of 32 inches and a chest measurement of 26 inches.

The European country in which there is the largest number of marriages of men under the age of 21 is Russia.

The hottest place on earth is Behaim, on an island in the Persian Gulf, which has a mean annual temperature of 30 degrees.

Fifty thousand German toy-makers export \$13,000,000 worth of toys, of which the United States gets nearly \$4,000,000 worth.

The balance of trade in our favor nearly equals, and occasionally exceeds, that of all other favored nations on the map.

During the middle ages gunpowder, clocks, telescopes, parchment, paper, and the mariner's compass were invented or adopted.

In the interest of the increase in population, a Frenchman suggests that married men and fathers be exempted from military duty.

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In Tennessee on September 1 there were eighty-four "dry" counties and but twelve in which liquors could be sold. In Arkansas seventy-five counties are "dry" and forty-three "wet"; in Georgia the proportion is 137 to 103; in Mississippi, sixty-five to ten. In ten Southern States the voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots against licensing the manufacture or sale of liquors, and in one—South Carolina—it is a State monopoly. That the South is fast becoming prohibitionist is attributed to the suppression of the negro vote.

REFORM IN PRINTED PAGES.

Some Changes that are Suggested and Objection to their Adoption.

If a correspondent of the Sun is right, the despised and buffeted spelling reformers may well hold up their heads hopefully. They may get a result which will compel people to follow their ideas, whether or no. Herebefore the trouble with even the sanest and most moderate suggestions as to simplifying the spelling of our knotty tongue has been that no man was constrained to accept them unless he felt like it, and that before the reformed spelling of the simplifiers could reach the eye it was at the mercy of compositors and proofreaders. This correspondent says that a motion is on foot to change the keyboard of the typesetting machines in such a way that these machines, which set an increasingly large proportion of the printed matter every year, cannot return to the old style even at the command of the men who own them.

The plan is to drop the letters "q" and "x" from the keyboards of the machines. Writers would then be forced to spell words in which "q" appears with "cw", and those having an "x" with "cs". This sounds queer, but this example should explain the change. For the two keys thus made available the reformers would invent two new letters. One of these would represent the sound of "sh" which is now indicated by combinations of two or three letters in various words. The

other letter would stand for "th." The advantage of this would be the saving of space in printing. The substitution of one letter for two, and in words like "conscience" for three, would save, it is calculated, about fifteen lines in a column.

Saving space has become a matter of the first importance in printing newspapers, and newspaper spelling more and more controls public usage. Such a change in the keyboards of typesetting machines would, of course, be opposed by all the conservative forces which now preserve the inherited spelling of English. But if there is a demonstrated economy behind the change it may ultimately be brought about. The steel high building came in because brick or stone walls thick enough to support a dozen stories took up so much valuable space in the lower stories as to make skyscrapers on that plan unprofitable. Two keys in a type-setter are a smaller matter than that. It is a little hard, however, to see how you can save a great deal of space by these two letters when to get them you would have to use two letters for every "x" and "q" in the present alphabet. If the change in the keyboard is made, however, the whole country would adopt it. The tyranny of the typesetter is illustrated by the disappearance of the accented "e" in French words. In French "e" with an accent is virtually another letter.

There is no room on the keyboard, however, for these characters, and French names are habitually spelled in most American papers without this guide to pronunciation, until most readers come to think of them in this incorrect form. It is a mutilation, but there is no practical help for it. So if substitutes for "th" and "sh" were adopted a change which would have been impossible at any earlier stage in the history of the language would be forced into general use in a few years. If that were done simpler spelling reforms might be expected to follow in the general shaking up of the language thus mechanically compelled. Once started upon a crusade for saving space, the reformers could plow through the tongue of Shakespeare and Milton as the dynamo propelled their tool. Perhaps the reform train might be braked to a full stop at the brakeman's Pokysey or Skatleoke—Brooklyn Eagle.

LOCO WEED LITTLE KNOWN.

It Seems to Have Some Peculiar Influence Upon Animals and Man.

A well-known chemist living in Georgetown, D. C., whose attention was recently attracted to an article on the loco weed, gave some information relative to a little known plant. "I have had occasion to make some study of that botanical mystery, and I find that the fact that human beings, as well as horses, become addicted to its insidious fascinations has been generally overlooked. Some of the Mexicans brew it with their national beverage, pulque, in somewhat the same manner as herbs are combined with spirits to make cordials, and a Mexican with a 'loco jag' is a creature to command the respect of any man of a moment's question. With fixed, staring eyes, and muscles stimulated to abnormal activity, he runs amuck endeavoring to destroy whatever may obstruct his way. To refer to a man as 'loco' is a deadly insult in Spanish-American territory. I believe the government has given some attention to the loco weed, but no definite conclusions as to its properties have been reached."

A government report contains the following observation on "loco":

"Loco plants, or crazy weeds, are plants growing in the far Western States, the eating of which by horses and cattle is believed to produce loss of flesh, disordered vision, delirium, convulsive movements, or stupor and death. Much doubt hangs about the matter, but astragalus mollissimus is believed to be the loco of Kansas, while A. drommondii and A. oxytrypus are the loco plants of Colorado. Six species of the astragalus, including those mentioned, have been examined, and not in one of them has any alkaloid, resin or other active chemical substance been found. Postmortem examination of a number of 'locoed' sheep has shown in each animal masses of tannin expanse, and it has been suggested that this tapeworm was the cause of the illness."

"There can be no doubt that domestic animals are destroyed in the West in very large quantities from an affection which is known as 'loco,' and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in bounties by the State of Colorado for the extirpation of the supposed poisonous astragalus."

Babbled Over.

When Earl Spencer was lord lieutenant of Ireland the people of Dublin called the beautiful countess one of the loveliest women of her time, "Spencer's Faerie Queen."

But when their excellencies were about to return to England Irish gallantry was shown in a characteristic way. At the farewell banquet in their honor an Irish gentleman got up and said, with much fervor and many bows: "We all hope soon to see you back again—you and the work of art by your side."

Patriotic.

"I can let you have this set bound in Morocco, if you prefer," said the book salesman. "No," said Mr. Newrich. "I believe in patriotism's home industry. I'd rather have 'em bound right here in Philadelphia."—Captain Washington.

An optimist is a man who thinks his neighbors are almost as good as himself.

A coastwise steamer is one that knows how to keep off the rocks.

REALM OF KING CORN.

States with Millions of Acres of This Crop—Carnivals Held.

The corn plant grows in about every State in the Union, and people throughout the country think they are familiar with it; but to appreciate what corn really means one should make a tour through some of the Western States where the fields may be miles rather than acres in extent, and where the harvest of a farmer means nearer 100,000 than 1,000 bushels, says the New York Tribune. It is in this part of the country that one can as easily get lost in a cornfield as he would in a forest, so vast are the fields. In the "bottoms" of Kansas and Nebraska a man riding through a patch on horseback will often be hidden from view, as the tops of the plants extend above his head, resembling young trees in their proportions.

It is no wonder that the people of many of the prairie States celebrate the coming of "king corn" as the Southerner does the appearance of "king cotton," for some of these commonwealths alone produce enough corn in a year to feed a nation. The corn patch of Iowa, which covers over 4,000,000 acres yearly, sometimes produces 300,000,000 bushels. Nebraska is another 8,000,000 State, but Kansas, the State of the sunflower, takes the lead with nearly 9,000,000 acres each year devoted to this cereal. There are counties in Kansas where one can see square miles—not acres—planted entirely with corn, where fields are so large that standing at one end the visitor sees the horizon unbroken by anything except a mass of plants swaying in the breeze.

It is not strange that the corn harvest is made the occasion of fetes or carnivals in some of the Western commonwealths. The idea probably originated from the corn festival of the Indians, but the red man would never recognize the old-time festival in the transformation which it has undergone. Weeks before harvest time preparations are made. The prominent citizens of the town contribute to a fund for decoration, music and usually the entertainment of townspeople and guests at a banquet.

The services of some leading orator are secured and the governor is invited to attend with other notables. A special week is set apart at a time when the farmers have finished gathering the grain and have leisure to attend. The railroad companies are induced to offer special rates for transportation and with others offer prizes for the best designs and decorations. A program is arranged, consisting of processions, public meetings, concerts and other attractions which will interest the townspeople and visitors. Generally a committee of leading citizens, headed by the mayor, take charge, and large sums of money are expended in arranging the carnival.

Each resident vies with his neighbor in the decorations, and there is shown what can be done with the grain in honor of which the celebration is held. Some of the designs are truly wonderful. As single stalks can be procured which are fifteen feet in height, an opportunity is offered to construct pagodas, booths and other ornamental buildings with walls and roofs of the plant. The stalks have such strength and lightness that they can be easily made into representatives of castles, forts and historic structures. The leaves are worked into an inconceivable variety of designs. The women and girls make costumes out of the husks, even to hats and bonnets. They are woven into parasols and umbrellas, while frequently the front of a building will be hidden by a covering of them, thirty or forty feet in length, with openings cut for the windows and doors.

The manufacture of corn millinery has become an art among the Western women. At a carnival held in Atchison the principal milliners of the town produced some wonderful creations of headgear entirely from the silk, husks and tassels. Many of them were worn during the carnival week by the belles of the place.

England's Superior Natural Gas.

The English natural gas has two advantages over the American. In the Heathfield district near London all the wells show a pressure of at least 120 pounds per square inch, which is enough to carry the gas to any town in England. The other advantage is that, while American gas, when burnt in a fish-tail or Argand burner, has practically no illuminating power, the ormer, when burnt under the same conditions, cannot be distinguished from an expert from the ordinary coal gas in common use. Heathfield as gives 20 per cent more light than coal gas under like conditions.

New Substitute for Rubber.

Gutta-jointing is a new material which is utilized as a substitute for and in conjunction with India rubber. It is a product of the East Indies, chiefly the island of Borneo, and in the form in which it is imported is described as "whitish in color, looking something like marshmallow candy, melting strongly of petroleum and oxidizing on exposure to the air, becoming hard." Its importation has increased from 6,500,000 pounds in 1890 to 14,000,000 pounds in 1903.

Penalty of Wealth.

"Wealth has its penalties," said the rite philosopher. "Yes," answered Mr. Cumrox, "wealth is what compels a man to eat fancy cooking the whole year round instead of having cakes hot from the griddle and home-made preserves."—Washington Star.

The average man wants others to do him as he does himself.

Three Years After.

Eugene E. Lario, of 751 Twentieth avenue, ticket seller in the Union Station, Denver, Colo., says: "You are at liberty to repeat what I first stated through our Denver papers about Doan's Kidney Pills in the summer of 1896, for I have had no reason in the interim to change my opinion of the remedy. I was subject to severe attacks of backache, always aggravated if I sat long at a desk. Doan's Kidney Pills absolutely stopped my backache. I have never had a pain or a twinge since."

Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists, price 50 cents per box.

A Lawyer's Poor Outlook.—"Oh yes, I've opened an office," said the young lawyer. You may remember that you saw me buying an alarm clock the other day."

"Yes," replied his friend. "You have to get up early these mornings eh?"

Oh, no. I use it to wake up when it's time to go home."—Philadelphia Press.

A Little Previous.—"Well, said the doctor "how do you feel today?"

"Oh, doctor," replied the patient wearily, "I am suffering the torments of the damned."

"What! Already?" inquired the doctor pleasantly.—Chicago Post.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. We the undersigned have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligation made by him. ALEX. & T. S. Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. WALKER, KINMAN & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Some men imagine they're hanging over a precipice, until they get nervous prostration and then drop a foot.

Trout and Billion Dollar Grass.

The two greatest fodder plants on earth, one good for 14 tons hay and the other 80 tons green fodder per acre. Grows everywhere, so does Victoria Rape, yielding 60,000 lbs. the sheep and swine food per acre. JUST SEND 10c IN STAMPS TO THE John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., and receive in return their big catalogue and lots of farm seed samples. (C. N. U.)

The mineral resources of India have been greatly developed during the past ten years, and coal is now found in paying quantities, in all the provinces except Bombay, Sind and Mysore. The latest discoveries affecting India have been in Afghanistan where some large and rich fields await development. Most of the Indian coal is of inferior quality, and in efficiency falls short of English coal by a full third, but it suffices for all the needs of the country, and the railroads now get less than one per cent of their fuel from abroad.

Because a man can sit for forty seconds without talking at the rate of a steam whistle, a woman has an idea that he is brooding over black thoughts.—New York Press.

"If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon our mortal minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and our fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something which will brighten to all eternity."—Daniel Webster.

Errors cost time and money. So do other things, but carelessness is a reputation killer.

GIVES "GO."

Food That Carries One Alone. It's nice to know of food that not only tastes delicious but that puts the snip and go into one and supplies staying power for the day.

A woman says: "I have taken enough medicine in my time to furnish a drug store, but in later and wiser years I have taken none but have depended, for the health I now enjoy, on suitable and sustaining food of which I keep on hand a tested variety, plain but nourishing."

"Of these my main dependence is Grape-Nuts, especially if I have before me a day of unusual effort, either mental or physical. In this case I fortify myself the first thing in the morning with about four teaspoonsful of Grape-Nuts moistened with cream and not much else for breakfast and the amount of work I can then carry through successfully without fatigue or exhaustion is a wonder to those about me and even to myself."

"Grape-Nuts food is certainly a wonderful strengthener and is not a stimulant, for there is no reaction afterwards, but it is sustaining and strengthening, as I have proved by long experience." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

There's a reason four teaspoonsful of Grape-Nuts and cream will add more strength and carry one further than a plateful of coarse, heavy food that is nearly all waste. Grape-Nuts food is condensed, pre-digested and delicious. It contains the parts of the Wheat and Barley grains that supply the rebuilding parts for Brain and Nerve Centers.

Look in each package for a copy of the famous little book, "The Road to Well-being."