

IN THE ODD CORNER.

QUEER AND CURIOUS THINGS AND EVENTS.

Some People's Food—Foreigners in a Land Generally Adhere to Old Country Methods of Cooking and Eating—The Crowned Crane.



The Guilty Kaseal.

GUILTY, Judge, and I own the crime—I slipped away with a sack of flour; They nabbed me just in the nick of time—I'd have had it home in half an hour. Only, the constable on the hill Know that I must have jumped the bill. Know as well as he come that I hadn't the money with which to buy.

"Larceny" that's the proper word; There's never a crime but Law can name, Only, I wonder if law has heard That any one but the thief's to blame? Say, did the constable on the hill Tell you about the closed-up mill? Tell you of men who must beg or steal To give their babies and wives a meal?

Yes, I have begged—and I'll tell you how: I walked the roads and fields and the lanes, And asked for work with a pleading brow And came back empty for all my pains! Say, did the constable on the hill Tell you the wheels of trade were still? Tell you when work was dull or dead The wife and child must go unfed?

Guilty, Judge—let the law be paid; But if you had children four or five, As pretty as God has ever made And lacked the food to keep them alive, Lacked the method but not the will, Their cries of hunger to stop and still—And then saw oceans of food in view—For God's sake tell me, what would you do?

Bees as Aids in War.

History records two instances, according to Mr. Whiteley Stokes in the London Athenaeum, in which bees have been used in warfare as weapons against besieging forces. The first is related by Apollonius, of the siege of Themiscyra in Pontus, by Lucullus in his war against Mithridates. Turrets were brought up, mounds were built, and huge mines were made by the Romans. The people of Themiscyra dug open these mines from above, and through the holes cast down upon the workmen bears and other wild animals and hives or swarms of bees.

The second instance is recorded in an Irish manuscript in the Bibliothèque Royale, at Brussels, and tells how the Danes and Norwegians attacked Chester, which was defended by the Saxons and some Gallic auxiliaries. The Danes were worsted by a stratagem, but the Norwegians, sheltered by hurdles, tried to pierce the walls of the town—when, "what the Saxons and the Gael did who were among them did, was to throw down large rocks, by which they broke down the hurdles over their heads. What the others did to check this was to place large posts under the hurdles. What the Saxons did next was to put all the beer and water of the town into the cauldrons of the town, to boil them and spill them down upon those who were under the hurdles, so that their skins were peeled off. The remedy which the Lochlans applied to this was to place hides outside the hurdles. What the Saxons did next was to throw down all the beehives in the town upon the besiegers, which prevented them moving their hands or legs, from the number of bees which stung them. They afterwards desisted and left the city."

The Crowned Crane.

The crowned or Kafir crane is a striking bird, nearly four feet in height and pale gray in color, the naked white cheek-patches edged with crimson and the crest of yellow bristles arrest attention at once. That crest, by the way, is an object of desire among the natives of South and East Africa, who seek the bird for no other purpose than to procure the tuft of yellow web-feathers wherewith to adorn their own heads. The crowned crane is found singly, in pairs and in small flocks, sometimes associating with the Stanley or Paradise crane, in the vast areas of swampy ground, where it finds a livelihood. The bird's domestic arrangements are uncomfortable from the human point of view; like other ground-building cranes, it selects a neutral site on marshy land, and constructs a conical mound of rushes or long, rank grass, sometimes ankle-deep in water. In a slight depression



on this mound it lays a couple of dirty white eggs, and rears its young. Mr. Buckley, writing of the birds of Madagascar, says he once found a large nest floating on the water, but as a regular rule the crowned crane prefers a nest of more stability. The Stanley crane, above mentioned, is peculiar to South Africa, where it is familiarly known as the blue crane. This is a very beautiful bird, with its soft leaden-blue plumage and wonderful development of tail and wing feathers. When in the adult are so long that they trail on the ground, and one marvels by a bird which spends the better part of its existence stalking about in marsh or in the river shallows, should be endowed with plumage which can only become dragged and dirty. A singular habit is attributed to this crane; it is fond of roosting, if the water be not missed, knee-deep in water. The fact that an observer, quoted by Mr. Layard in his "Birds of South Africa," has seen the Stanley crane

frozen into the ice in winter does nothing to increase our respect for its intelligence. It is a remarkably shy and wary bird, but curiously enough, if taken from the nest, is easily and completely tamed.

Some People's Foods.

The foreigners who come to this country prefer the foods they are accustomed to in their own country. When you walk through the regions where the Germans live, you see rye bread, sausages and signs announcing that sauerkraut is for sale. When you go through the part of any city where many French families live, you will see that the keepers of the shops are French, and the signs in the window announce the sale of French foods, in the French language. In the Hebrew quarters you will find that it is the kind of food that the Hebrews, no matter from what country they come, prefer, that is sold in the shops. Where the Chinamen live, it is the foods that they prefer that you will see in shop windows. These foods come from their native country. Thirty thousand duck eggs were sent to this country from China during the last month. These eggs are each wrapped in black mud. This mud, which is of the consistency of putty, remains on the egg for months. The yolk of the Chinese duck eggs is pink, not yellow like our duck eggs. These eggs are packed in boxes of twenty-five dozen, but the Chinese dozen is ten, not twelve, as the American dozen is counted. The rice the Chinamen prefer is cooked to a jelly form. Shark's fins are a Chinese delicacy, and salted plums are also a delicacy. You may think these are queer things to want to eat, but you must remember that much that you eat would make a Chinaman shudder—that he can not conceive how you can wear the clothes you do, and that our babies, with their full heads of hair, are hideous little monsters. It is a matter of education and custom.—Selected.

IT IS EASILY DONE.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY A SIMPLE PROBLEM.

Raise the Street Level a Few Feet and Build the Tracks Below the Surface—No Tunneling is Necessary—Like a Covered Ditch.



ONE of the finest and most commodious railways in the world is now in operation in Budapest, in Hungary. It is known as the Franz Josef Electrical Underground Railroad, and it runs from the heart of the capital to the suburbs. For many years the people of Budapest have been anxious to have a railroad through beautiful Andrassy street, but, for apparently valid reasons, the Minister of the Interior persistently refused to give his consent to any such project. The original proposition was that a horse railroad should be constructed, but the Minister promptly vetoed it. His argument was that Andrassy street was mainly used as a public promenade, and that its beauty and usefulness would be lessened by the introduction of a horse railroad.

Five years later—in 1887—the project of an electric street railroad with an underground current was broached, but when the Minister who was then in office heard of it he refused to sanction it, and on the same grounds as his predecessor.

Finally the project of an underground electric railroad came to the front, and, after some delay, the necessary consent of the authorities was secured. According to this new plan a road was to be constructed beginning at the Gisella platz and thence passing under the Waltzer boulevard and Andrassy street to the Stadtwaldchen. The greatest thoroughfares in the city would thus be threaded, or, rather, undetermined, and a ready means of transit would be secured from one import-

ant point to another. This plan was adopted January 22, 1894, and there was a distinct stipulation that the road should be in working order by the time of Hungary's millennium, in 1896. Quick work therefore was necessary, for the task was gigantic in its way, and not to be easily accomplished within two years.

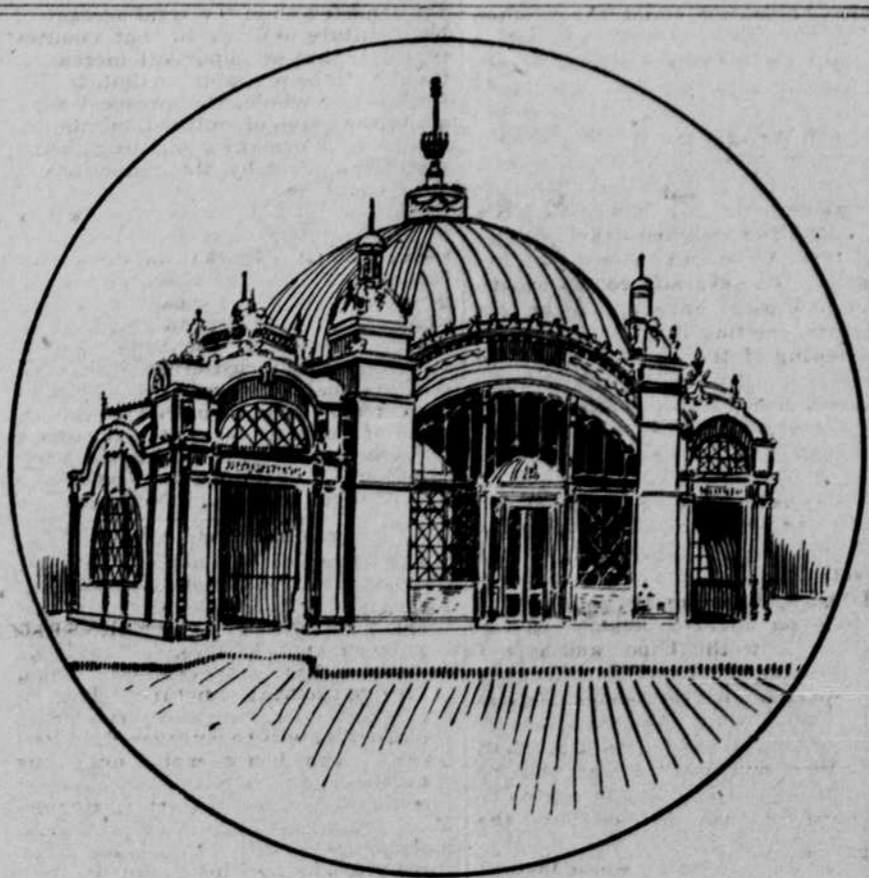
Actual work was begun on August 13, 1894, and it was kept up without intermission till the completion of the road. The line was laid with two rails, the entire length being 3,700 meters. Along the route there are eleven stations, at which passengers get on or off. Nine of these stations are underground and two are in the open air.

Everything appertaining to the work is of the strongest and most durable material, and the utmost pains have been taken to insure for the passengers comfort and safety. Lights are scattered freely through the tunnel, some being used as danger signals. Thus a red light shows that the train is to stop and a white light that the road is clear. In case the lights get out of order a telephone can be used, for each station is provided with a telephone.

The carriages are spacious, luxurious, and are constructed after the most approved models. They are twenty in number, fourteen of which can be used singly.

The road was finished at the appointed time, and has been running since then from 6 a. m. to 1 a. m. Trains follow each other in rapid succession, and during the busiest time of the day there is only two minutes' headway. From the start the road has been popular, which is proved by the fact that during the first five months the number of passengers amounted to 2,261,940. The capital of the road is 3,600,000 florins, of which 100,000 florins are kept as a reserve fund.

The government, or municipal, concession lasts for ninety years. In 1940, however, the concession to the Budapest Electric Railroad Company will lapse, and then the franchise of the present road will revert to the city of Budapest. Until then the Franz Josef and the Budapest Electric companies will apparently work together.



STATION OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY AT BUDAPEST.

IT IS HARD TO ESCAPE

NEW METHOD OF IDENTIFYING CRIMINALS.

Now Adopted by St. Louis—The Police Department of That Already Wrestling with French Measurements and Mathematics.



FROM the St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Since the adoption by the police commissioners of St. Louis of the Bertillon system of identification the heads of departments have begun to rub up their French mathematics and delve more deeply into prison literature. Even the chief's private secretary, Mr. Espey, who, by reason of having been a newspaper man, knows a little of everything, admits he is a kindergartner on this subject. It is neither an easy nor a quick transition from the old style of descriptions and photographs to the more modern Bertillon method, and it is rather remarkable that St. Louis should have waited so long before making the change when the Joliet penitentiary and nearly all the chief cities and principal prisons have been working for years under the French plan of identifying prisoners.

Alphonse Bertillon first presented his method to the public in 1881, when France was agitating the question of the deportation of habitual criminals. It was promptly adopted. It reached this country through the prison congress held at Detroit in 1887, and found a friend and advocate in Maj. R. W. McClaughey, then warden of the Illinois penitentiary at Joliet. Since then it has come slowly into general use. A majority of readers are familiar with the advantages of the system, but the practical application is not so well known. Its results are shown best at Joliet, where, of over 1,500 photographs now classified and filed, any one picture can be found in a minute's time, from the subject's measurement, thus showing that no two persons are precisely alike in every particular.

The identification of a prisoner rests upon the knowledge of the following indications:

- 1. Length and width of the head.
- 2. Length of the left, middle and right fingers.
- 3. Length of the left foot.
- 4. Length of the left forearm.
- 5. Length of the right ear.
- 6. Height of the figure.
- 7. Measurement of the outstretched arms.
- 8. Measurement of the trunk, from the bench to the top of the head of the person seated.

These different operations necessitate the use of special instruments called caliper-compasses and sliding compasses, and of three graduated measures, permanently fastened to a suitable wall, two being placed vertically and one horizontally. These instruments have not yet been ordered by the St. Louis police department, but as soon as a Bertillon agent can be located the order will be made, and with the instruments will come a teacher to drill the main office in the system. Two or three lessons ordinarily suffice to make an operator tolerably proficient. As two or three of the measurements can be modified or influenced by trickery on the part of the subject, the operator himself must practice the motions that are apt to alter the result, and allow his assistants to do the same, so that he may be able to easily discover these trickeries whenever they appear in actual practice. Not taking into account the time needed to ascertain either the civic status of a prisoner of the various particular marks of the subject, the simple process of measuring, after the period of grouping has been passed, does not require more than four or five minutes. In order to become efficient the operator must know unmistakably the nearest approximation to which each measurement or each indication can be ascertained. Thus, if the officer taking or comparing descriptions knows to a certainty that the length of the head never exceeds an approximation of two millimeters—this measure being the largest possible, divergence—a difference of four millimeters or more between two head length measurements would be conclusive proof to him that the measurements were obtained from two different persons, as the examined subjects cannot exercise the slightest influence on their cranial diameters. It is quite common to find two subjects of the same height, but a hair's breadth in head-length fixes the difference. It is said the non-universality of the metric system is no obstacle whatever. In cities where the Bertillon system is not in use, the figures on the Bertillon instruments are taken, not as actual measurements of length, etc., but as cipher or signs designating a certain information sought for, as is now done by means of scars and marks. The measurements and descriptions are taken at the Joliet penitentiary in the following order, the prisoner being brought into the operating room barefooted and in shirt-sleeves:

Height—Measurement of the person standing erect. Outstretched arms—From finger tip to finger tip, the arms being extended in a right-angular cross with the body. Trunk—From bench to top of head of a person seated. Head—From cavity at the root of the nose to the remotest point of the back of the head; the diameter from side to side, between the two points most remote from each other, situated

over the ears and on a horizontal plane at right angles to the measurement of length. Right ear—Measurement from the top of the rim to the lowest point of the lobe. Left foot—From extreme point of back of the heel to the end of the farthest projecting toe. Left middle finger—From point of knuckle to tip of finger, the finger being placed at right angles to the back of the hand. Left fore-arm—From point of the elbow to the tip of the longest projecting finger, the elbow being placed at sharp angles with the upper arm. Left eye—Analysis of the colors, possible confusion of pigment and peculiarities. Nose—Profile, form of the ridge, length, projection, breadth and peculiarities. Forehead—Inclination, apparent height and width, and peculiarities. The marks and scars follow as a matter of course, and then the work is finished. The height, arms and trunk measurements are taken by perpendicular and horizontal graduated measures placed on the wall. The head is measured with a calliper compass, the ear with a small sliding compass, while the fingers, fore-arm and foot are taken by means of a large sliding compass. These descriptions and measurements are filed, with photographs, by divisions or groupings. Given the length of a prisoner's head, and the officers turn the head groupings for a picture. The head index on the files show the small, medium and large, each division separated again into classes by measurement, the medium being those of, for instance, 19 centimeters to 19.4; the large lengths 19.5 and more, and the small measuring less than 19. Thus, the officer, in his work of identification, need only examine about ten pictures out of a possible 10,000. There are now over 4,000 pictures in the rogues' gallery of the Four Courts, and by the Bertillon system any one of such a number could be located almost instantly.

VERY TACTFUL.

How a Pretty Girl Relieved a Clergyman's Embarrassment.

She was a most modest appearing girl and as pretty as a girl well could be, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Her great blue eyes looked out from under her new bonnet in a way liable to bewitch any man. She came into Union square a recent afternoon and slowly descended the steps, apparently unconscious of the many admiring glances cast in her direction. In her arms were many bundles, all of them small, but of such odd shapes that they were difficult to carry.

As the young woman took her foot from the last step of the long stairway a look of perplexity flitted across her face. Then, as she started to cross the waiting room, those who were watching her saw something on the floor, where she had dropped it. A dozen men started forward to pick it up, saw what it was, and then maneuvered so that it would appear as if they had not noticed it. The young lady, aware of her loss, kept straight on and never looked behind her.

But there was one man there who had seen the article fall and he went after it. He wore the straight collar and peculiar garb of the clergy, while glasses told of the most embarrassing of afflictions, nearsightedness. Running quickly to the little object that lay so harmlessly upon the floor, he picked it up and hastened after her. He touched her on the arm, and lifting his hat, he said: "I beg your pardon, my dear young lady, but you dropped your—"

It was then that he saw for the first time what he had picked up. He was holding the little band of black with a red bow on it in the full view of those who were in the waiting room, and he did not know what to do with it. The young woman's hands were occupied with bundles, and he felt it would scarcely be right either to drop it or put it in his pocket. For perhaps a moment he stood there blushing. He tried to speak, but the best he could do was to stammer out some unintelligible syllables. In the meantime the girl stood speechless. First she flushed and then grew pale. Then her face seemed to indicate that she was amused at the clergyman's embarrassment. Then, with a sweet smile, she dropped her bundles on a seat near by, and, taking the circle, said: "It's so good of you. My brother Tom would never have forgiven me if I lost one of the sleeve-holders his father sent him."

And she gathered up her bundles and walked away.

X Ray on a Terrier.

The fox terrier is now officially registered as a transparency, the X ray shining through him like a candle through a Chinese lantern. The experiment has just been tried on an animal of this species which had swallowed a diamond ring, the trinket appearing in its midst, visible as a goldfish in a glass case or a fly in amber. The utilities of this penetrating beam may expand till it will show up other than the paltry pliffers of a terrier, perhaps even the swag of the political boss, notwithstanding the opacity of its bulk and origin.—New York Tribune.

Official Corruption in China.

A striking picture of the official corruption that prevails in China is afforded by some diplomatic reports submitted by the English foreign office to the houses of parliament at Westminster. Among other things it is shown that so great is the stealing that, were the imperial government to abolish the rice tribute from the province of Kiangsu and Chekiang alone, it would effect an economy of more than \$2,000,000, which is the sum that its collection now costs over and above the revenue that it yields.

up by him out of sheer love of mystification, Diana Vaughan being a typewriter of his acquaintance who knew nothing of Gen. Pike or Asmodeus either. The auditors were very much inclined to lynch M. Taxil, who had to be protected by the police, and whose motive for his discreditable imposture they evidently doubted. He was probably seeking cash. His stories had a ready sale, and there are men in Paris who would do anything to discredit the catholic church, which, no doubt, is inclined by tradition to be rather credulous about free-masonry. It is probable that a good many of the stories about Satanism in Paris have been got up in the same way, by men who traded at once on catholic credulity and on the appetite for the horrible and the nasty.

PERSONALS.

First Mate Rule.
Hojack—Can you give me a good rule for playing poker? Tomdik—I can. "Go ahead." "Don't poke."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Rev. John McNeill, the evangelist, was a railway porter for years before he became a preacher.

C. W. Walton, justice of the Supreme Court of Maine, will soon retire after a service of forty years.

Mrs. Langry possesses a dressing bag which is, perhaps, the costliest of its kind. It is adorned with gold and jeweled fittings, and cost \$7,500.

John Bryan, an Ohioan, will establish a public school for farming on the Miami river, near Yellow Springs, Greene county. He will devote 150 acres to the project, hoping to correct the tendency of people to rush to the larger cities.

William Schenck of Pine Grove, Wis., who has been town treasurer for 18 years, has recently made the first mistake in his books, and even this one is of very little importance. He is 83 years old, and the townspeople intend to keep him in office for the rest of his life.