

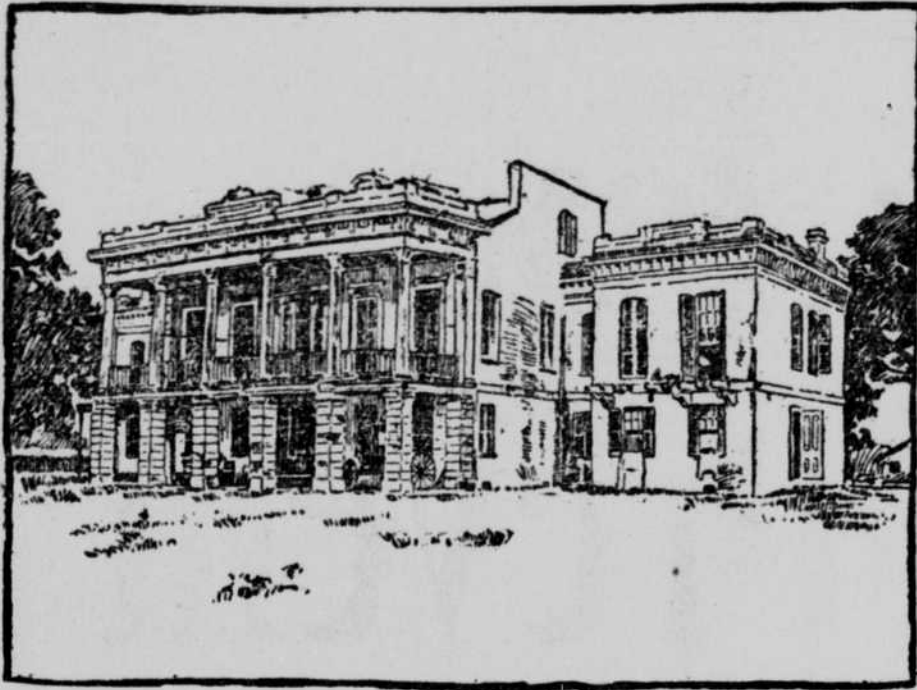
A LIFE OF HARD SACRIFICE.

Louisiana's Melancholy Leper Colony on the Banks of the Mississippi.

There is a place behind the levee on the east bank of the Mississippi eighty miles above New Orleans that the river boats pass in the early morning long before the passengers leave their berths, so it is not pointed out as one of the sights of the river. Perhaps it would not be pointed out, anyway, as it could hardly be expected to enhance the attractiveness of the route. The lazy plantation negro, passing it on the river road, "gets a gait on" his mule, because of a superstitious dread, and to those even, who fear only the material, the eerie atmosphere brings a shudder. The character of the place is little known, except to the creoles of Iberville, the parish in which it lies, and to the steamboatmen who bring supplies to it. An uninformed person would suppose it was only one of the several deserted plantations to be seen along the Mississippi, relics of Louisiana's "fo de wah" glory, though a larger and grander ruin than the others. Such it was until 1894, when put to its present use.

is almost unknown among these unfortunates. They await the inevitable end with a quiet and touching patience, treating each other with unflinching sweetness and tenderness. They are a devoutly religious body. Marriage, of course, is not permitted among them. The children of the settlement were all legally assigned there with one or the other of their parents. Though leprosy is more prevalent among the negroes than among the whites, there are but seven negro inmates of the colony. There has been but one escape from the inclosure; that of a lad who scaled the fence and got safely away. About a month after he had gone the sisters received a letter thanking them for all their kindness and informing them he was on his way to the Sandwich islands, where there was more scope for those of his affliction.

Products of Ireland.
Potatoes have ceased to be the principal root crop of Ireland, if they are



THE LEPER HOME.

It is now a leper colony, the only institution of its kind in the United States.

The identity of those confined at the institution is maintained a profound secret and few outsiders are allowed to enter the place. A permit, by no means easy to obtain, must be presented before a visitor is admitted. The most tragic cases at the institution are two young girls, both of them beautiful, cultured and members of prominent Louisiana families. Not a mark has yet appeared upon the face of either—but they wear gloves, always. When the writer visited the inclosure these girls were sitting in the garden reading to several children and old men. A sister introduced the writer to the girls without mentioning their names. Both talked cheerfully

to be compared with turnips by weight of yield—last year, for example, only about 1,842,000 tons, against 4,426,000 tons of turnips. Nor was the potato acreage, though twice as great as that of the heavier root, nearly the largest given to any crop. That of oats was larger by 450,000 acres. The Irish product of oats was much greater than the Scotch and Welsh put together, and amounted to 504,000,000 bushels, against 73,500,000 bushels raised in England. What has to be deplored nowadays in Irish agriculture is not dependence on a single crop, but a general tendency to a shrinkage in area of all arable land. In spite of an increase of 46,000 acres devoted to mangel wurzel and beet, this shrinkage has been one of the 32 per cent since 1855. The distinctively Irish crop



FRONT VIEW OF A LEPER COTTAGE.

and without reference to their terrible fate. Their cases are, of course, hopeless, all leprosy cases are.

Life in the settlement is by no means as terrible for the most of the lepers as one might suppose. Many of them are perfectly able to do a good day's work, but no labor is required of them. What work they do is done of their own free will. Many of them take a great pride in their gardens. For recreation the liveliest of them play croquet and even lawn tennis; while those who are partly incapacitated carve wooden ornaments and crochet. They have all sorts of indoor games, and friends keep them supplied with reading matter. Complaining, petulance or rebellion against their fate

of flax has lost ground since 1870 to the extent of nearly 75 per cent. Land either becomes meadow, or more largely, goes out of cultivation. In these circumstances it is gratifying to see that a rally to flax last year was rewarded by an exceptionally fine harvest. As compared with the year before, the area given to it was 35 per cent greater, and the yield 42 per cent greater. Much more than as much honey was also produced as the average weight for ten years back.

Scotland's Friend, the Salmon.

It has been said that more laws have been passed for the protection of the salmon than for that of any other living creature save man himself, says a

pushes back further and further until in a few moments the clever horse in front who started the backward procession is standing in the place of his neighbor in the rear with his head at the animal's feedbag. Then he begins to eat ravenously, finishes his neighbor's oats as soon as possible, and steps nimbly back to his own place, eats his own oats, and settles contentedly for a stand-up nap with a well-fed air of placid innocence.

But the horse at the end of the line suffers. That is no affair of the clever inventor of the scheme, however.

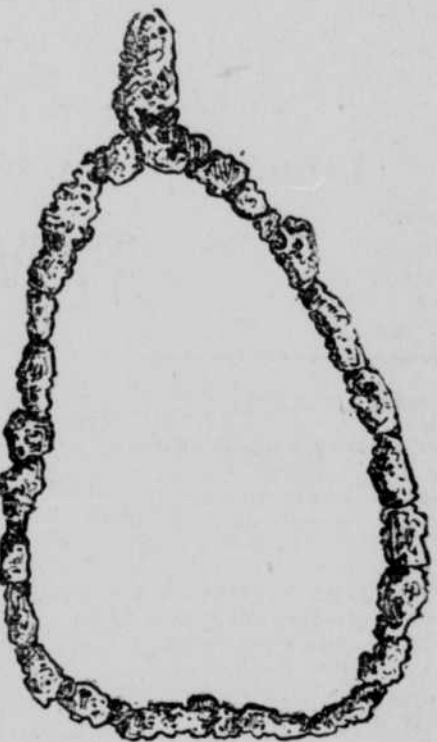
HOW A HORSE STEALS HIS COMRADE'S OATS.

There is a clever postoffice horse in Brooklyn which for some time past has been getting double rations, and will probably continue to do so until the postoffice men discover his trick. From the substation at the corner of Ninth street and Fifth avenue are sent out a number of mail collecting carts through the surrounding district. When the horses drawing these carts come

Dundee newspaper. But, then to Scotland the salmon is worth a good deal. The rental of the Tay alone runs to over £20,000 a year. Indeed, the amount paid to Scotland lairds for the privilege of catching the salmon, and his lesser kinsman, the trout, is believed to be considerably over £100,000 a year. And the benefit to Scotland does not end here. Sportsmen must live. They usually live well, and have to pay well.

NECKLACE OF NUGGETS GIVEN TO A DUCHESS.

In commemoration of her visit to the West Australian court of the Glas-



gow exhibition the Duchess of Fife has been presented with a necklace of virgin gold nuggets. The necklace, which was presented by H. W. Venn, president of the royal commission of Western Australia for the Glasgow exhibition, is inclosed in a sandalwood casket inlaid with Australian woods. The nuggets are of flake gold and to the necklace is added a pendant of gold-veined crystal. The inscription on the box runs: "Presented to H. R. H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Fife, on behalf of the government of Western Australia, by the West Australian royal commission to the Glasgow International exhibition, 1901, as a souvenir of the exhibition, and of the visit of her royal highness to the West Australian court on May 3, 1901."

LADDER WITH A PLATFORM IS INVENTED FOR WOMEN.

That the ordinary stepladder is neither safe nor convenient for women



can readily be seen, and for this reason a new ladder has been invented.

Its merit lies in the fact that it is provided with a platform and a balustrade, the platform opening automatically as soon as the ladder is placed in position, and a fall being rendered impossible by the balustrade which surrounds the platform. Furthermore, this ladder can be fitted with a large table board on which can be placed kitchen utensils or other articles necessary for cleaning purposes. If windows have to be washed or walls to be cleaned the work can be done with perfect safety and convenience.

In other respects the ladder is constructed in the ordinary manner, and it is so light that it can easily be transported from place to place.

The Button-Hook Has Vanished.

What has become of the button-hook? Once upon a time every other man you met would have a button-hook on his key-ring, and few careful chaps would have one in some handy place in his desk for emergencies. That was because men were wearing button shoes. But that day is past and the button-hook has vanished, presumably because button shoes are no longer popular.—Washington Star.

TOWN BOYS THE "FARMERS."

Far Less Quick and Observant Than the Country Children.

Principal Thomas W. Boyce of the First District school is of the belief that city children are the real "farmers," in the matter of observation, says the Milwaukee Sentinel. The country cousin has long been scoffed at for his open-mouthed wonder at what to his city-bred playmates are objects of every-day knowledge, and plenty have been the jokes sprung at the expense of the country gawk upon his visits to the city. But now the tables are turned and the city boys and girls may well look out for their laurels as world-wise youngsters. "We have been reading 'Snow Bound' in our eighth grade recently," said Mr. Boyce, "and it is a matter of surprise and wonderment to note how little the children know about farm life and nature. Some passages which one would think every intelligent boy or girl of 14 or 15 years of age ought to know leave a perfect blank in the minds of the city scholars. Take, for instance, the passage, 'The oxen hooked, and lashed their tails.' The scholars could not imagine what 'hooked' meant. They thought that the word hook meant to snatch, to steal, to grab, to swipe, but not one associated the word with the tossing of the horns of the impatient brutes. The passage describing the well sweep, 'like Pisa's leaning miracle,' was so much Greek to them. Although they understood the reference to the leaning tower of Pisa, they knew nothing of the old-fashioned well sweep. 'The sun-circled day, portent of the storm,' they had never seen. They expostulated at believing such a thing. 'You cannot look at the sun,' they said. 'It is too bright. It hurts your eyes.' Now, I venture to say that there is not a boy in this state who has lived on a farm to whom the sun-circled day is not the portent of a storm. They have noticed it from their childhood days. The city children were non-plussed in reading of the gray banks of clouds with the rising of the sun. The sun they see is over the housetops, through some dining-room window. It is an interesting study for me to observe how little the city people are taught to observe nature. That is where the country children have the advantage over their city cousins."

SUPERFLUOUS ACTIVITY.

Women Speak of "The Complex Duties of the Moment."

The fact that the world—the world of women, at least—is too busy is now put forward so often that its utterance amounts to a truism. The most common phrase in our language seems to be that which proclaims the want of leisure, "I am so busy;" "If I can ever get the time;" "Life is such a pressure these days;" "The complex duties of the moment;" "The busy modern public"—these are, all of them, most familiar sentences to us, and are on our lips time and again in explanation of business, social, and even moral shortcomings. It is not putting it too strongly to say that in the present rush of living we are losing some of our best characteristics and painfully dwarfing our lives. We are too busy to be neighborly, hospitable, to be sympathetic—a good many, indeed, of the finer traits of humanity are finding less expression among us.

The question of better control of the leisure which the old century gave to women, and which the new will increase, is a large one, and admits of elaborate presentation. It is only intended in this brief paragraph to emphasize a single point, which is, the value of a quick weighing of every effort in which one is about to engage, or is now absorbed, to be sure of its necessity to yourself, or yourself to it.—Harper's Bazar.

Languages Difficult of Acquisition.

Former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Frank A. Vanderlip recently returned from a trip of four months in Europe, where he visited nearly all the continental capitals and had interviews with the several ministers of finance. "My plans for the future are not definite at present," he said, "and the work I shall have will not be determined for some time. I have rapidly come to the front as the great American acceptor. I have been reported to have accepted in the last few months more places than I ever expect to have offered me in a lifetime. For the present I am going to rest and get acquainted with my mother, of whom I have seen very little in the past four years. During my sojourn abroad I discovered that English is fast becoming the commercial language of the world. In Europe every minister of finance and most of the prominent business men I met were able to speak English well. This excepts the French. They seem to think in France that everyone must know French and that it is not necessary for a Frenchman to know any language but his own. I found the most finished linguists among the peoples whose languages are the most difficult of acquisition by foreigners."

Wanted His Own Perquisite.

An Englishman staying at an English inn ordered a bottle of wine for luncheon, but only consumed a third of it at that meal. When he asked for the remainder at dinner he was told that all the wine left at table went to the waiter as a perquisite. The landlord supported this statement, but when a summons was issued for the value of the missing wine the claim and costs were paid.

As soon as a woman falls in love her complexion gets better.

Railroad Earnings

QUEER MATHEMATICS USED IN SCHEMING FOR PROFITS.

Railroading, in its beginnings and throughout its exuberant youth, says Carl Hovey in Ainslee's Magazine, was a business which made use of nerve, a big head for planning and plotting and a constant slap-dash application, after which the returns were pretty sure. Nowadays it is all as sophisticated as a cash register. A successful year indicates that some one has taken enormous pains to study the figures, and that the result of his diligence has been a pretty accurate knowledge of the class of business that would pay. A railroad carries freight and passengers for a living. The managing head, in order to direct the business profitably, must know what it costs him to provide the service for which the public pays. Common sense and the instinct of self-preservation demand this course at once, but they are not so forward in suggesting what is to be done first. How can one come at such a knowledge? It costs so much annually to maintain the track and the terminals, so much to pay the salaries of the train crews, yardmen, clerks, officials, and a law department, too. How much, then, will it cost to carry six carloads of potatoes 150 miles out on the main line to Berryville? The problem looks like one by which cunning pedagogues advise little boys that it is impracticable to add hens and geese together in the same sum or useless to seek to know the cost of seven-eighths pounds of butter in a catch question where you are told only the price of a pound of lard. The difference is that the railroad figures do show a glimmer of sense. But this proves to be a will-o'-the-wisp leading nowhere. Nothing can be done with them until you have slaughtered most of the items wholesale and arbitrarily have selected a few promising ones with which to do business. "Let us say the line carried in the year 1889 50,000,000 tons of freight a distance of one mile; the work has been measured, with this result, which stands on the books as 50,000,000 'ton miles.' The pay for doing the work, measured also,

averages four mills to a ton mile, so that the total revenue from the freight business for that year amounted to \$200,000. The expense is to be measured by a unit which is called the 'train mile.' In this instance it is the freight train mile. The immediate cost of running a freight train a mile can be computed readily, and it includes: Cost of fuel for the locomotive, and the wages of an engineer, a fireman, a conductor, a couple of brakemen and a flagman. The number of cars may be anything you please so far as these expenses are concerned, for it will not affect them much. In the present case say that the average trainload was 400 tons, a large, but a sound figure. Therefore the number of train miles that had to be run to earn the \$200,000 was 125,000. Train mile cost was reckoned at 75 cents. Therefore we have: Expenses, \$93,750; profit, \$106,250. Not the actual profit, to be sure, but we get on better by keeping the geese separate from the hens, and the figures have their use.

Take the company's report for the following year, 1900. The same work was done, let us say, 50,000,000 ton miles. The average trainload, however, was 500 tons. No wonder the road found itself with more money to divide than it had in the year 1899. For, by increasing the trainload the number of train miles was lessened, and train expenses were inevitably reduced to the tune of nearly \$19,000. The gross revenue remained, of course, the same. The figures are disgracefully rough, but they tell the truth. They shout it through a megaphone. The way to make money is to increase the trainload. A well-known technical writer in Wall Street calls this 'the touchstone of successful or economical railroading.' To save train miles is to save money. Drop by drop, to save it with a sure promise of drops enough in all to make an ocean.—New York Press.

It is estimated that one crow will destroy 700,000 insects every year.

The Enlarged Congress...

It Will Have 386 Members, and the Electoral College 476

Probably the people of the country do not yet fully realize that the house of representatives which they will elect next year will be allotted on a new ratio, and will be much larger than any house ever chosen before. In the house of representatives which was elected last November, and which will meet next December, there are 357 members. In the house which will be elected in 1902 there will be 386 members. The ratio for representation in the house established just after the taking of the census of 1890, was one member for every 173,901 inhabitants. The ratio established under the census of 1900, which will go into operation in the election of November, 1902, is 194,182. The next house will be 29 members larger than the present one. Of course, the electoral college will be enlarged to the same extent. The electoral vote in the canvass of 1900 was 447. The vote in the election of 1904 will be 476 through the recent addition to membership in the house, and there is a chance that it may be still further enlarged, be-

cause the admission of Oklahoma and perhaps one or two other territories to statehood between now and the next presidential campaign is decidedly probable.

No state lost any members through the recent adjustment of representation in the house and in the electoral college. On the other hand, many states gained. Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin will each have to choose one member more next year than they chose last year. Minnesota, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will each gain two members. Illinois, New York and Texas will each gain three members.

Substance Similar to Rubber.

M. Col of Paris has discovered that a substance similar to rubber may be obtained from the Japanese spindle tree. The announcement was made to the Academie des Sciences.

REINCARNATION OF MAN.

"There are in Theosophy two central doctrines—the doctrine of Reincarnation, and the doctrine of Karma. The first is startling, the second soothing; both are so eminently rational that conviction almost certainly follows comprehension, says a writer in behalf of the new theory of life. Both are rooted in the profound fact of evolution (of which science has seen a part), the fact that all life expands and rises from poor and low to rich and high plateaus.

"Stronger than woe is will; that which was Good Doth pass to Better—Best."

"The doctrine of reincarnation is that each man dwells in the flesh not once, but often. His internal, indestructible self comes again and again into earth life, each time in a different race, family, condition, so that he is confronted successively with every form of test and experience, assimilating into that Self the essence of each incarnation, and at last emerging with an exhaustive knowledge of humanity and a perfected character. He is not a thousand men compounded into one, but one man who has had a thousand lives. As a world-wide traveler learns the peculiarities of each region and people himself becoming mentally more supple and more vigorous as the result of travel; so the Ego learns humanity through having been identified for a time with each section of it, and becomes not a Chaldean, a Roman, or an American, but a man. And as the traveler dwells, now in a tent, now in a palace, now in a hut, now in a hotel, ever imagining that his surroundings are other than transient and unessential; so, too, the Ego dwells in temporary homes of body, a craftsman, a slave, a student, each being an encasement for a single life, not one being any real part of the Being which outlasts them all."

"The great doctrine of Karma is in itself exceedingly simple. It is the doc-

trine of perfect, inflexible justice. The word has two meanings. It means first, as defined by Col. Olcott, 'The law of ethical causation—Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.' But it also expresses the balance sheet of merit and demerit in any individual character. Thus in the former sense, we say, 'The quality of incarnations is determined by Karma'; in the latter sense we say, 'A man's Karma is forming during each day of life.'

"The belief that every one of us receives with absolute precision his exact deserts commends itself at once to reason and to justice."—Wilkesbarre Letters on Theosophy.

Goldbeaters at Work.

It is interesting to watch goldbeaters at work in a gold leaf factory. These men, whose skins are sallow from the stains of gold, take up ingots first of the virgin metal, pass them between steel rollers, whence they come forth like pie crust, and pass them then through closer and closer rollers, until they are but little thicker than paper. The sheets of gold are next placed between pieces of leather that are called goldbeaters' skins, and men beat them through the skins with mallets until they are reduced to an unimaginable tenuity. It has often been proved that a skilled goldbeater can turn out gold leaves so thin that it would take 282,000 of them to make the thickness of an inch; so thin that, if formed in a book, 1,500 of them would only occupy the space of a single leaf of paper.

Burglars Ring Up Homes.

Burglars in New Rochelle, N. Y., have adopted the scheme of ringing up residence telephones to learn if any one is at home before proceeding to loot the house. Four dwellings were robbed in one night by that means last week.