

CURRENT TOPICS

AN INSTITUTION TO BE KNOWN AS THE Academy of Flowers has been established in Paris. The Paris correspondent of the Chicago Tribune says: "The great palmhouse in the Parc des Princes, with thousands of exotics and plants, has been given by the state for the new institution, besides the magnificent garden of eighteen acres adjoining for the study of the thousands of strange specimens for artistic purposes. The artists are delighted with the new institution, whose pavilion will serve as studio, museum, and lecture room. The best floral painters will exhibit canvases and lecture, and the academy is patronized by Mme. Waldeck-Rousseau, M. Honataux, and M. Pierre Baudin."

MR. ROOSEVELT'S POLITICAL MANAGERS are considerably worried these days because of the suggestion coming from various sources that the republican party might nominate a candidate for the presidency who would be stronger than the president. While all the members of the republican national committee said they were in favor of Mr. Roosevelt's nomination, it is claimed by Washington correspondents that only a few of them are willing to privately express the opinion with which they are credited in the public press. According to the correspondents, the vast majority of the members of the republican national committee say in private conversation that Mr. Roosevelt's nomination would be suicidal. It is reported that at a Washington dinner party, given by J. Hampton Moore, president of the national league of republican clubs; John M. Thurston, formerly a senator from Nebraska, referred to Mr. Roosevelt as "a man whom everybody is for, but whom nobody wants;" and this epigram is said to be very popular these days in high republican circles.

MR. HANNA APPEARS TO BE THE CHOICE of the anti-Roosevelt republicans and although he insists that he is not a candidate, he has not made himself as clear on this point as Mr. Roosevelt's friends would like to have him do. Friends of Mr. Hanna make no effort to conceal the fact that Mr. Roosevelt has been required to eat humble pie at the Hanna table. It is reported that Mr. Roosevelt had insisted upon the resignation of Perry S. Heath, secretary of the republican national committee, but Mr. Hanna said that Mr. Heath should not resign and Mr. Heath did not resign. Mr. Roosevelt's friends did not care to have the convention held in Chicago. Mr. Hanna selected Chicago, and Mr. Hanna had his way. Mr. Roosevelt's friends wanted an early convention and fixed June 7 as the limit. Mr. Hanna did not want an early convention and settled upon June 21 as the day. Mr. Hanna had his way. Mr. Hanna seems determined to carry his fight against General Wood to the end, and he has requested the senate committee to summon General Wood to return from the Philippines in order that he may explain some of the charges that have been preferred against him. While it is generally believed that in spite of this fight Mr. Roosevelt will be the republican nominee, it seems to be well understood among politicians that if the anti-Roosevelt men conclude that an organized effort to defeat Mr. Roosevelt's nomination would be practicable, Mr. Hanna will be "dragged" into the contest. Many politicians think that in that event Mr. Hanna would become the nominee, and all politicians agree that it would at least result in a merry fight.

THE TITLE OF AN ESPECIALLY INTERESTING article written by Malcolm McDowell for the Chicago Record-Herald is "Iron a Coquette Among Metals." Mr. McDowell says that an experimental scientist in Europe has discovered that metals can be killed by poison, put to sleep by chloroform, made drunk by whisky, and crazy by cocaine. According to Mr. McDowell, this scientist declares "with much confidence that metals possess many attributes and broadly intimates that he is the first man to prove it." Mr. McDowell explains that "every foundryman and blast furnace man for years has known that one metal at least has much akin to human in it. This metal, called the most useful of metals, is always seeking its affinity. It is a sad flirt; a veritable coquette. In its course from the crude

ore to the finished product it runs the gamut of love and hate, and its intrigues and escapades keep the blast furnace and cupalo in a turmoil. This metal is iron, and one would scarcely think, looking at the cold, hard, unfeeling bars of wrought iron that the same metal, in the blast furnace and the cupalo of the foundry, is married and divorced a dozen or more times and is a most susceptible, impressionable, reckless, unfaithful sort of a blade. The ironmaster, knowing its ardent temperament and fickleness, employs the arts of love to make iron do about as he wills."

A CORRESPONDENT FOR THE ARMY AND Navy Journal has made an investigation into the matter of the recurrence of family names in the army register, and the result is set forth in the Journal in an interesting way. It is shown that of the names familiar in history, there are eight Lees, five Grants, three Lincolns, two McClellans and two Logans. In numbers the Smiths lead, and they are all of the honest old Teutonic stock, not one disguising himself as a Smyth or Smythe. Of the fifty-five Smiths, three are general officers, eight are in the staff, nine in the cavalry, six in the artillery, twenty-one in the infantry and two in the Philippine scouts, and six are on the retired list. The thirty-two members of the Davis family follow next in order of numbers, and then come the Millers and Williamses, each having twenty-eight sons to represent them. Brown follows with twenty-five, the Taylors twenty-four, Clarks twenty-three, Jones and Wilson each twenty, Parkers nineteen and Murphys sixteen. There are fifteen Barkers, Mitchells and Scotts, fourteen Harrises, Martins, Moores and Woods, Adams, Anderson, Hamilton, Jackson, Lewis and Wheeler occur thirteen times; Allen, Edwards, Green, Roberts and Robinson we find eleven times; and Abbot, Bell, Graham, Wells and Young ten times. Then come Bennett, Campbell, Cook or Cooke, Evans, Foster, Hodges, Hunt, Jordan, Thompson, Reed, Russell and Walker with nine of each. Bailey, Butler, Carter, Cole, Collins, Craig, Elliott, Johnson, King, Lynch, Mills, Morgan, Palmer, Patterson, Stone, White and Woodruff eight each. Seven times we find repeated the names of Arnold, Caldwell, French, Hughes, Hunter, Kilbourne, Perry, Phillips, Price, Pope, Powell, Raymond, Rice, Rodgers, Stephens and West, followed by six each of Ball, Fuller, Howell, Keller, Long, Morriss, Morrow, Page, Rucker, Tompkins, Watson and Wright. As we descend the list of numbers the list of names lengthens accordingly; if we were asked for a list of those whose names appear five times, we should have to name Bates, Berry, Bowman, Buck, Burt, Fisher, Gordon, Humphrey, Lawton, Marshall, Mason, Merrill, Morton, McClure, Powers, Read, Ross, Reynolds, Ryan, Turner, Tyler, Ward and Wagner. There are many who have their names repeated a less number of times, but in most cases they are fathers and sons or relatives in the same family.

WRITING IN THE DECEMBER NUMBER of "The World's Work," Sereno E. Pratt says that one-twelfth of the estimated wealth in the United States is represented at the meeting of the board of directors of the United States steel corporation, when they are all present. The 24 directors are John D. Rockefeller, Marshall Field, E. H. Gary, W. H. Moore, Henry C. Frick, W. E. Corey, F. H. Peabody, Charles Steele, P. A. B. Widener, James H. Reid, William Edenborn, E. C. Converse, J. Pierpont Morgan, H. H. Rogers, George W. Perkins, Norman B. Ream, Charles M. Schwab, C. A. Griscom, Daniel G. Reid, J. D. Rockefeller, jr., Alford Clifford, Robert Bacon, Nathaniel Thayer and James Gayloy.

MR. PRATT SHOWS THAT THESE MEN represent as influential directors more than 200 other companies. These companies operate nearly one-half of the railroad mileage of the United States. They are the great miners and carriers of coal. Among these companies are such industrial trusts as the Standard Oil, the Amalgamated Copper, the International Harvester, the Pullman, the General Electric, the International Mercantile Marine, the United States Realty and Construction and the American Linseed. The leading telegraph system, the traction lines of

New York, of Philadelphia, of Pittsburg, of Buffalo, of Chicago and of Milwaukee, and one of the principal express companies, are represented in the board. This group includes also directors of five insurance companies, two of which have assets of \$700,000,000. In the steel board are men who speak for five banks and ten trust companies in New York city, including the First National, the National City and the Bank of Commerce, the three greatest banks in the country, and the head of important chains of financial institutions; for two banks and three trust companies in Philadelphia; for two banks and two trust companies in Chicago; for one bank and two trust companies in Boston, and for one bank and one trust company in Pittsburg, besides banking institutions in smaller cities. Telephone, electric, real estate, cable and publishing companies are represented there, and our greatest merchant sits at the board table.

AN INTERESTING STORY IS CONTRIBUTED to the Chicago Inter-Ocean by that newspaper's Philadelphia correspondent. Under date of December 12, the Inter-Ocean's correspondent claims that a lineal descendant of King David recently died in Philadelphia. The story is told in this way: "Mrs. Gustav Lipschuetz was her name. She lived with her husband and five children on Diamond street. Through the misty reaches of sacred history this woman could trace her kinship to the distinguished Jewish family Abarbanel, whose relationship to David is undoubted and whose achievements throughout Europe are matters of history. Mrs. Lipschuetz, whose maiden name was Bertha Neumann, sprang from that branch of the family of which Don Isaac Abarbanel, prime minister in Spain in 1492, was the head. During that time, when persecution against the Jews began as a result of the change in the religious views of Ferdinand and Isabella, Don Isaac was obliged to flee with his less favored brethren. The family scattered, settling in various parts of Europe. Don Isaac afterward became prime minister in Italy. The grandfather of the dead woman was Rudolph Hirsch Abarbanel, one of the foremost rabbis of Germany in the last century. The city of Gertz, where he died, gave him a public funeral, and the government buildings were draped in mourning. Mrs. Lipschuetz was born in Germany in 1850, and came to this country during the civil war."

IN HIS RELATIONS WITH NEW YORK'S famous Sunday school class, John D. Rockefeller, jr., is frequently embarrassed by the record of the trust magnate. Under date of December 13, the New York correspondent for the Philadelphia Record says: "A remark by one of his hearers caused John D. Rockefeller, jr., to dismiss the young men's Bible class of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church today without ceremony. Rockefeller had just finished talking about charitable giving, when a man arose and said: 'Mr. Rockefeller, just one word—' 'I beg your pardon, sir,' said Rockefeller. 'We are very late now, and we won't have time for any discussion.' 'Just one word, Mr. Rockefeller,' and every eye was fixed upon the tall man with long locks and drooping mustache; 'I just want to say that perhaps as soon as some of us cease taking from others we can give with better grace.' Mr. Rockefeller turned to the orchestra and said: 'We'll have the music omitted today; we're late. We will not hear the announcement for the week by the secretary.'"

THE GERMAN WAR MINISTER IS DEVOTING his best energies to stamping out brutality and immorality among his troops. In a speech delivered in the reichstag, Minister von Elnem admitted that there has been abuses and declared that the army administration was determined to correct them. The minister said that during the year 50 officers and 577 non-commissioned officers and good service men were punished for mistreatment of private soldiers. According to these figures, one officer in 400 and one non-commissioned officer in 120 had been found guilty of the misuse of authority. The Berlin correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald, referring to Minister von Elnem's statement, says: "Herr Richter in reply pointed out that a single non-commissioned officer in the guards had on