

boulder monument in Lincoln park, Chicago. A Chicago dispatch says: "The stone occupies a position near the spot where Kennison was buried in 1852, in what was then the City cemetery of Chicago. The ceremonies attending the unveiling were conducted by the Sons of the Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution, which societies are the donors of the monument. The boulder was secured in northern Wisconsin by Henry Dudley, chairman of the joint committee of the societies that desire to perpetuate the name of Kennison. It is seven feet in length, about four feet in breadth, stands three feet above the ground and weighs several tons. A bronze plate upon it bears the names of the societies and the date of Kennison's death, which occurred in the one hundredth and sixteenth year of his life."

AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY COMES FROM Penrhyn in Wales, and although it is vouched for by the London correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean, it is not generally accepted. The Inter-Ocean correspondent says: "The wife of a quarryman was bathing her three-months-old babe, when she was thunderstruck to hear the child say plainly in Welsh: 'Next year will be a terrible year, mother.' The mother rushed in terror to the next door and told what she had heard to a neighbor, who ran immediately back, picked up the infant, and, as she soothed and caressed it, coaxingly asked it if it had told its mother that next year would be a terrible year. To her astonishment, the child looked at her, said 'Yes,' and fell back dead. The story has been discussed far and wide, and the two women have been cross-questioned without shaking their story. At Penrhyn, where the people are rather primitive and religious, there is much foreboding."

THE GREAT ECHOES OF THE WORLD ARE described by a writer in the New York Herald in this way: "The suspension bridge across the Menai Straits, in Wales, produces one of the most remarkable echoes in the world. The sound of a blow with a hammer on one of the main piers is returned in succession from each of the cross beams which support the roadway, and from the opposite pier at the distance of 576 feet, in addition to which the sound is many times repeated between the water and roadway at the rate of twenty-eight times in five seconds. An equally remarkable echo is that of the Castle of Simonetta, a nobleman's seat, about two miles from Milan. The report of a pistol is repeated by this echo sixty times. A singular echo is also heard in a grotto near Castle Comber, in Ireland. In the garden of the Tuilleries, in Paris, is an artificial echo, which repeats a whole verse without the loss of a single syllable. Another wonderful echo is heard outside the Shipley church, in Sussex, which echoes some twenty syllables in the most perfect manner. The well-known echo at Woodstock repeats itself no fewer than fifty times. In one part of the Pantheon so great is the echo that the striking together of the palms of the hands is said to make a report equal to that of a twelve-pound cannon."

A GENUINE ALBINO BLACKBIRD WAS RECENTLY shot near Catterick bridge, Yorkshire. The Pall Mall Gazette says: "Scientific ornithologists have clearly enough explained the physiological nature of albinism in birds, but it is still a mystery what originates these physiological conditions, and also why it is that very dark-plumaged birds, such as blackbirds, rooks, etc., are more liable to albinism, pure or partial, than any others. It is strange, for instance, that white robins are rare, and it is notable that the last found in this country was obtained in Yorkshire (Sedbergh district). Last summer a perfectly white sand martin was seen by hundreds in the Betham (Yorkshire) district, and three or four in other parts of the north of England. House martins, also barn swallows, are liable to assume albinism, and many records are preserved in Yorkshire. As for 'pied' blackbirds, rooks and such like, they are as common as the proverbial blackberries, whereas in the whole of England there are probably not more than two records of albino woodcocks."

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED a system of insurance for workmen and it is clear that the results are satisfactory to all concerned. A writer in the Chicago Chronicle, referring to this system, says: "In 1902, on account of sickness, 4,800,000 persons received sick benefits amounting to \$51,500,000; for accidents, 384,566 persons received \$26,800,000;

for infirmity, 1,100,000 persons received \$32,250,000—a total of 6,735,000 persons benefited to the extent of \$108,500,000. Of the total amount \$10,350,000 was contributed by the government, \$52,500,000 by employers and \$45,500,000 by the insured. That is to say, the working classes received over \$52,000,000 beyond the amount of their own contribution to the cost of their insurance against sickness and infirmity, and this amount is increasing with great rapidity. It has already increased tenfold in the eleven years. An incidental effect has been an immense impetus to the work of public sanitation. There is a direct economy in providing healthful living conditions for the working classes which acts as a constant spur upon the authorities. As consumption was found to be the worst enemy to the health of the workers, a law was passed in 1899 providing for the establishment of sanitariums in connection with infirmity insurance and there are now between seventy and eighty sanitariums, containing 7,000 beds, for the accommodation of working class patients under the insurance laws. The open-air cure is employed with great success, over 67 per cent of the patients being fully restored to working capacity and over 21 per cent additional are partially restored. Another marked effect of the system is that it has greatly promoted peaceful relations between trades unions and employers. Instead of aiming at workshop control the unions take to politics, and this has been a great factor in the enormous growth of the social democratic party. This is a curious reverse of the original expectation with which state insurance was introduced. It was intended to disarm socialism by attaching the working classes to the government. It has promoted socialism by teaching the working classes to look to the exercise of state authority for the promotion of their interests. It has given the labor movement in Germany a thoroughly political character, recognizing and upholding public authority, because it expects eventually to wield that authority. Hence there is a powerful force at work counteracting anarchical tendencies."

THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN, JOHN D. Rockefeller, attended his son's Sunday school recently, and listened to a sermon delivered by Rev. R. P. Johnston and entitled "Money Madness." The New York World tells the story in this way: "The church was crowded. All listened intently, dividing their time between watching the pastor and scanning for the effect of his words the face of Mr. Rockefeller. Every once in a while the trust builder nodded his head in indorsement of the speaker's sentiments, after which he glanced around apparently to see the effect upon the audience. The effect was marked, and even John D. Rockefeller made no pretence of ignoring it. The audience was there to be affected. It began gathering early, and was prepared to stay late, for the pastor had advertised his intention of telling the evils of sacrificing all to greed. 'For the love of money is the root of all evil,' the good man read from Timothy 6-10, whereupon Mr. Rockefeller nodded again in acquiescence, 'which some, reaching after, had been led astray from the faith and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.' The rich pewholder leaned forward to let no word escape him. The throng leaned forward to let no movement of his escape them. A smile was upon the face of the observed of all. 'The age in which we live is not wholly good nor wholly evil,' said the pastor, and with an almost imperceptible nod, not lost upon audience or preacher, Mr. Rockefeller indorsed it. 'Yet,' continued the man in the pulpit, 'I cannot even call it a happy medium.' Slowly the magnate shook his head. 'I cannot but say,' observed Dr. Johnson, 'that the passion for gain is stronger in the hearts of men today than ever before. I believe it to be the duty of some men to make money—a nod of approval from Mr. Rockefeller. 'God intended them, to do it and to use it to His glory.' Again the rich man smiled and nodded. 'I despise a man who fawns to wealth,' came from the lips in the pulpit—another nod of approval, and thus the dialogue—a dialogue of speech and pantomime—continued, and with the benediction all arose to go. 'An excellent sermon, most excellent,' Mr. Rockefeller exclaimed, as he shook hands with a score of friends. 'I indorse every word of it. Such an example for young men. It is true, there is no happiness in the possession of great wealth. The happiness is in the good the possessor does with it. The good pastor is right.'"

SOME QUEER PURCHASES ARE MADE BY the United States government for the benefit of the senators. These are revealed in the official report made by the secretary of the sen-

ate, and among the items is "260 tons of best timothy hay for use of the United States senate." Another item is "one oak refrigerator and pan for committee on women's suffrage;" also, "for repairing three electric stoves;" also, "for one year's subscription to the Ladies' Home Journal." The report shows that five dozen hair brushes were bought and paid for out of the contingent fund of the senate, also nine dozen combs, forty pounds of camphor, 109 pounds of sponges, aside from one dozen bath sponges, the latter \$20 a dozen. The secretary's report shows that considerable sums of money were spent by the government in order to purchase for the use of senators attar of roses, oil of bergamont, glycerine, hair tonics, bay rum, vaseline, dandruff cures, a gallon of cologne, fourteen different kinds of soap, feather dusters, twenty-five pounds of horehound candy, 6,000 quinine tablets, and also \$6,000 worth of mineral waters; also two dozen corkscrew knives, \$21.60; two wrist bags, \$10; four manicure sets, \$12; one year's subscription to the Delineator; one year's subscription to St. Nicholas; one year's subscription to the Youths' Companion. These purchases were paid for out of what is called the contingent fund.

THE GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE IS having his share of troubles these days. A correspondent for the New York Tribune says: "Nahum J. Batchelder, the present chief of the Granite State, holds four offices, being his own subordinate in three instances. Now, offices are by no means so many up among the quarrymen, nor anywhere else for that matter, that four for one man seems to the patriot an equitable arrangement. The governor is not his own appointee. When he was elected he held several lucrative positions: He is secretary of the state board of agriculture, which pays an annual salary of \$1,500, besides clerk hire and other necessary expenses. He is also cattle commissioner of the state, his compensation being fixed by the governor and council and paid from the state treasury, the total compensation and expense of the board of two not to exceed \$10,000 a year. He is also commissioner of immigration, with an allowance not exceeding \$2,000 annually, as audited and allowed by the governor's council. Mr. Meehan, editor of the Concord Patriot, has asked the courts to oust the governor from the secretaryship of agriculture."

PROFESSOR GEORGE C. COMSTOCK, DIRECTOR of Washburn observatory, and professor of astronomy in the University of Wisconsin, has created a sensation among scientists. The Madison, Wis., correspondent for the Chicago Chronicle says that Professor Comstock declares that, according to exhaustive experiments made by him for a period of years, the ideas held by astronomers about the telescopic range of vision and photography are enormously exaggerated—perhaps 2,000 times. Heretofore it has been held that astronomers could see through their telescopes stars the light from which took 2,000,000 years to reach the earth. Professor Comstock declares that it is, in his opinion, impossible to see a star with the best telescope in existence the light of which star takes more than 1,000 years to reach the earth. "Modern investigation," Professor Comstock said in an address before a gathering of scientists and students, "proves that the statement of the astronomer who said a century or so ago that with his telescope he could see stars from which it took the light 2,000,000 years to reach the earth was enormously exaggerated. Modern astronomers claim to be able to see stars from which the transmission of light takes 20,000 to 30,000 years, but I believe that we cannot see farther than the stars whose light is transmitted in 1,000 years, nor do I believe we will be able to get beyond that distance."

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN the line of invention are referred to in an interesting way by a writer in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. According to this writer Mr. Jefferson invented many articles of every-day use. He devised a three-legged folding camp stool that is the basis of all camp stools of that kind today. The stool he had made for his own use was his constant companion on occasions of outings. The revolving chair was his invention. He designed a light wagon. A copying press was devised by him and came into general use. He also invented an instrument for measuring the distance he walked. A plow and a hemp cultivator showed that his thoughts were often on agricultural matters. His plow received a gold medal in France in 1790. Jefferson never benefited financially by his inventions, but believed they should be for the use of every one without cost.