

SOCIETY AT THE CAPITAL.

Marguerite Matthews in New England Home Magazine.

One of the most remarkable things about society at the National Capital is the fact that an official social code is operative for the guidance of the principal officers of the government and their wives at social and diplomatic functions. It is a thing which the ordinary everyday mortal can scarcely conceive of, and yet it is true, nevertheless. For years this deficiency caused endless controversy and worry in diplomatic and official life, and at various times there was correspondence between the United States and other countries, to say nothing of disagreements between members of the Cabinet and high officials generally.

In the administration of President Harrison the Secretary of State, Mr. Foster, had prepared for his own guidance by a clerk of the State Department from the best established preced-

down to the Assistant Secretaries of the various departments, in the same order as heads of departments.

The order of precedence for ladies of the official circle is the same as that provided for the officials themselves. In cases where the officials are unmarried their nearest relative, should she preside over the household, has by courtesy the precedence which would be given the wife of the official. At functions given by the officials of foreign Governments at the Capital the wife of the Secretary of State takes precedence over the wives of Ambassadors, including the wife of the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

Custom does not require that the wife of the President should return official calls, except in the case of visiting royalty. She may limit her calls to personal friends. It is expected that the wives of foreign Ambassadors should make the first official call upon

press makes the initial call upon the wives of the Representatives already in office.

WOLVES AND BEARS

That Inhabited the Yellowstone Park, as Seen by a Traveller.

Ernest Seton Thompson, the author and naturalist, gave some thrilling stories of animal life in his talk on "Some Animals I Have Known," the other night at the Peabody Institute. In the course of lectures given by the Public School Teachers' Association. An interesting part of the address was the lecturer's imitation of the calls and cries of the different animals. Mr. Thompson told some of the comedies and the tragedies, too, of animal life. One of the latter was the story of "Noble," the king of the pack of wolves who for five years were supreme in a section of New Mexico. Noble resisted every effort to kill or capture him. Poisoned bait, traps, had no effect on him, but at last he was brought low

factory study. So he took the rather novel method of seeing them at shorter range by digging a hole in the dump, setting his camera and his sketch books squarely on some old cracker boxes and then covering himself again with the refuse. In this macabrous hole he remained all day. He took several pictures, made a number of sketches of the bears who came to feast on the remnants of canned goods and other delicacies found in the dump. He watched with much interest and some anxiety a "scrap" between a mother bear and a big grizzly. Mr. Thompson was entirely unarmed. While the fight was going on the little cub—apparently a typical sore head—was watching the fight from a place of safety in a tree. The branch to which he hung was directly over Mr. Thompson's hole. If it had broken Mr. Thompson would have not been alone in his retreat. The grizzly bear got the better in the fight and the mother bear and the cub withdrew. The

CRIME WHILE ASLEEP

SOMNAMBULISM AS A DEFENSE IN TRIALS.

A Man Who, While Suffering from Hallucinations, Killed a Woman and Committed Arson, Set Free—Some Strange Doings.

The plea of Prof. Alfred Morrison of Mount Vernon, N. Y., who is now on trial for the murder of his wife, that the deed which resulted in her death and his arrest was done while he was in a somnambulist state brings to mind other cases in which somnambulism was used as the defense in trials for crime. Probably the most remarkable case on record in this country was tried in Boston in 1845. The defendant, Alfred J. Tirrell, charged with murder, was convicted in the public mind before the trial began. Tirrell was of good family, but had vicious habits. He was separated from his wife and was living with one Maria Bickford. One night the inmates of the house where they were living heard a cry, a sound as of a heavy body falling to the floor, and of someone descending the stairs. Then fire was discovered, and when it was extinguished the Bickford woman was found among the embers, her throat cut from ear to ear. A woman in the house next door had been awakened at the time by the cry of a woman. At the trial it appeared that from his youth Tirrell had been subject to somnambulist proxyms. On the morning the Bickford woman was found killed he appeared at a friend's house as if in a stupor, so much so as to frighten his friend. Expert testimony was given showing that the prisoner was evidently a somnambulist, and it was stated while in a somnambulist state a person could dress himself, commit homicide, set fire to a house and run into the street. Tirrell was pronounced not guilty, and was also acquitted on the charge of arson. Sleep-walking was the plea set up in defense of George Wilson, an industrious Chicago mechanic, who was charged with numerous burglaries three years ago. It appeared that Wilson followed his calling honestly in the daytime, but when night came on and sleep overtook him his nature underwent a radical change. Wilson, the honest mechanic, became Wilson, the housebreaker and thief. One of the most singular, and at the same time sad cases of somnambulism occurred a few years ago near Bakersville, N. C. A young man there named Garland had been in the habit of walking in his sleep from childhood. Finally he began to stay away from the house longer than usual, and always returned

A FAIR VICTIM OF OPIUM.

Girl Attempts Reform, Becomes Degraded and Dies.

Five young men are now in prison in Philadelphia, to await the action of the grand jury, as a consequence of the death a few days since of Miss May Bibbighaus, a young and pretty girl, who died under lamentable circumstances. Miss Bibbighaus belonged to a highly respected family, and at one time was an enthusiastic church worker. Last May she determined to bring her services to Mrs. J. D. Nash, superintendent of the Chinese mission. She entered on her labors enthusiastically, and apparently was so devoted to the work that she had time for nothing else. During daylight hours she was almost always absent from her home, and even her evenings were spent out. Her mother and sisters noticed that the bloom was rapidly fading from her face, and urged her to abandon the work at least for a time. But she would not. Meantime Miss Bibbighaus, instead of making converts or endeavoring to do so, was fast going to ruin. She had contracted the opium habit, and instead of reforming others she was degrading herself. A few days ago the girl went to rooms on Vine street, where, with five young men, she spent several hours. She smoked opium, and finally became sick. A physician was summoned, and as her condition was serious she was sent to a hospital, where the next day she died. Now the young men, all between 23 and 28, are held for the grand jury.

ONE BENEFIT OF HYPNOTISM

Patient Is Enabled to Visit Her Home and See Her Relatives.

"I know a physician in this city who has a patient, a young woman whom he hypnotizes, and whose intelligence—the subliminal self—he then sends to her home, hundreds of miles away, thus learning what happens there, who has called, what was said. She tells him these things. Their accuracy is positively verified subsequently by the persons in that home." This is one of several remarkable assertions made last evening by Dr. John Quackenbos, eminent professor of Columbia university, who has studied and practiced hypnotism for years and who is a recognized authority on the subject. "It is not at all wonderful that a clairvoyant should tell you what is in your mind," he said. "Any decent clairvoyant can do that. But it is wonderful, but true, that an intelligence can be sent far away. I am now preparing a woman to be clairvoyant in order that she may assist a physician in Tennessee. Such things as this fact of a young woman in a hypnotic state telling what transpires in her home hundreds of miles away—seeing and hearing—tends, I think, to prove the immortality of the soul, since it is seeing without eyes, hearing without ears, for the eyes and ears are here, let us say, yet actions, appearance and conversations are seen and heard elsewhere." Dr. Quackenbos believes from his own experience that many forms of disease, many tendencies toward evil, such as drink and cigarette smoking, and even degenerate traits may be cured by hypnotism.—New York Herald.

Why Some Churches Fail.

Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford of New York referred to the work of the church at a recent Episcopal gathering in Philadelphia in the following words: "The church is not fitting itself to new conditions. The people don't want her, because away down in her soul she don't want them. Our clergy are narrow and ignorant. If we are going to be able ministers of the New Testament we have got to know our country for one thing. Where'er I go I see churches that are failures. You never see printed records of the falling, but you hear of the sudden collapse. What causes these failures? Because the churches do not hold the fact that new times bring new duties. You don't suppose the church is absolutely right today. It is that spirit of life which means growth that the church wants. Church failures result not from lack of zeal or lack of earnestness, but because again and again the thing that is good in one age is not good in the next decade. New occasions have not taught the church new duties. Growth or death, choose which you will have. The living God's organization has to be the most vitally instinct with mind of any organization in the world. But it is not."

The Hours of Fate.

Dr. Richardson tells us that in the period between midnight and six in the morning the animal vital processes are at their lowest ebb. It is at these times that those who are enfeebled from any cause most frequently die. Physicians often consider these hours as critical, and forewarn anxious friends in respect to them. From time immemorial those who have been accustomed to wait and attend on the sick have noted the hours most anxiously, so that they have been called by our old writers the "hours of fate." In this space of time the influence of the life-giving sun has been longest withdrawn from man, and the hearts of even the strongest beat with subdued tone. Sleep is heaviest and death is nearest to us all in the "hours of fate."

Made No Difference.

Clerk—You can't get a room for him here. He's drunk. Wytte (supporting his "weary" friend)—I know he is. What of that? Clerk (scornfully)—This is a temperance hotel. Wytte—Well, he's too drunk to know the difference.—Philadelphia Press.



MISS ISABELLE DU BOIS.
A Leader at Washington Society Functions.



MRS. SENATOR MARTIN OF VIRGINIA.
Another Leader in Capital Society.

dents, a guide, as authoritative as possible, to proper official conduct in Washington functions. This memorandum, though incomplete, was used by Mr. and Mrs. Foster, and was handed to Mr. Olney when Mr. Cleveland came into power. Mr. Olney declined to have it made public, and although he himself used it for his own information, he refused to give it official recognition. And yet, there is no really official sanction to this set of rules, but they have been followed for eight or ten years by the various Secretaries of State, and thus, by usage, claim the right to official recognition.

Shortly after President McKinley came into power there arose a controversy between the late Vice President Hobart and Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador, as to which of them preceded the other at social and diplomatic functions. The argument became so heated that Secretary Hay received a personal letter from Mr. McKinley asking him to obtain from the proper English authorities a definition of the standing and rank of Sir Julian from the point of view of the social authorities of his own government. It developed that the British authorities did not consider Sir Julian's contention proper, and a note was dispatched to him with the result that next morning the Ambassador called upon the Vice President at his home, and the matter was amicably settled.

Under President Cleveland the Vice President, Stevenson, declined to assert his prerogative, and when the men met the Vice President gave way. There was much correspondence, and the matter was finally compromised. At the house of a foreigner the Secretary of State took precedence at dinners, and at the house of an American the highest foreign official had the place of honor.

It is interesting to know that the code of official precedence at present used in Washington is based mainly upon an act of Congress, approved Jan. 19, 1896, providing for the succession in the event of the disability of both the President and Vice President of the United States.

The order of precedence is as follows: The President, the Vice President, Ambassadors of foreign Powers in the order of their formal recognition by the government, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, the Secretaries of Navy, Interior and Agriculture, the Chief Justice of the United States, the Associate Justices in order of appointment, the Governors of the States of the Union in order of their admission, and so on through the list of Senators and Representatives, in order of their election.



MISS MARIE BAGLEY.
(Sister of the late Ensign Worth Bagley, Prominent in Washington Social Gatherings.)

the wife of the Vice President. This is also true in the case of the wives of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, the wives of members of the Cabinet, of Senators and Representatives, as well as the wife of the Major General commanding the army.

Conversely social etiquette has decreed that the wives of Representatives should make the first call upon the wives of Senators, as well as upon the wives of members of the Cabinet, of Foreign Ministers, the wife of the Chief Justice of the Associate Justices, the wife of the Major General commanding the army, and the wife of the Admiral of the Navy. The wife of a newly elected Representative to Con-

gress makes the initial call upon the wives of the Representatives already in office.

same grizzly went too near the hotel one day and attempted to take possession. One of the attendants telephoned to headquarters for permission to shoot the animal—the law against shooting the animals in the parks is rigidly enforced. The answer came back, "Against the law to shoot. Use a hose." The hose was used. The bear retreated.

SYLVESTER ABEND.

A Pretty Custom Observed in Berlin to Welcome in the New Year.

It was with much pleasant anticipation we awaited the approach of "Sylvester Abend," as they call New Year's eve in Germany. About 10 o'clock, supper being ended, we all adjourned to the parlor, where they danced until almost midnight. Then refreshments were served. These consisted of queer little cakes made especially for the holiday season, apples, nuts and Berliner pflauchen, which are perfectly delicious. The latter look like large brown doughnuts covered with sugar; on opening them they are found to be filled with jam. Our Christmas tree was relighted, having been furnished with new candles. The ringing of the bells announced the beginning of the New Year. Guns were fired, and from the church lofts bugles sounded. Later all the windows were flung wide open, and standing within them the people held up their glasses and yelled out, "Prosit Neujahr" to every one who passed by. People on the street called in to us; even the Droschky coachmen, as they drove by, called out "Prosit Neujahr." Of all the pretty customs in Germany I thought this the prettiest. Not only to your friends do you wish a happy new year, but to all. At a window in the house opposite stood a lady dressed in white; behind her was the brightly lighted room with its Christmas tree. Smiling and holding up her glass she called over to us, "Prosit Neujahr." Never again did I see the lady of that house, but a pleasant recollection of her always lingers in my mind.—Bessie Burnside, in the January Woman's Home Companion.

Scarlet Fever Shuns the Tropics.

A medical paper directs attention to the curious fact that scarlet fever has never been observed in an epidemic form in the tropical or sub-tropical regions of Asia or Africa.

The Salt of the Ocean.

The ocean, it is estimated, contains 7,000,000 cubic miles of salt, and if it could be taken out at once the level of the water would not drop an inch.



PROF. ALFRED MORRISON.

soaking wet. His wife followed him one night. He went along the highway until he came to a narrow trail leading to the river. For more than a mile the sleeper trudged on, until he came to a large poplar tree which had fallen with its topmost branches far out into the river. Walking on the log until he came to a large limb, he got down on his hands and knees and began crawling out on it. The frightened wife screamed and called to him to come back. He was awakened by her cries, fell into the river and was drowned. It is almost certain that each night for weeks he had taken that perilous trip, leaped into the river, swam ashore and returned home unconscious of anything having happened. Negretti, an Italian sleep-walker, sometimes carried a candle as if to furnish him light, but when a bottle was substituted he carried it, fancying he had a candle. Another somnambulist, Castelli, was found translating Italian and French and looking out words in his dictionary.

It is a remarkable fact that in the case of some somnambulists the same ear which may be deaf to the loudest noises will perceive even a whisper from one particular with whom alone the sleeper appears to be able to hold communion. There are instances of murderers having been detected by talking of their crimes in their sleep. Experts claim that the truthfulness of sleep-walking may nearly always be relied on.

Smallpox Time Now.

The statistics of smallpox show that this ailment is more prevalent from January to June than in the latter half of the year. Measles show a descending curve in January, a rise in May and June, a fall from August to October, and then a rise in November and December, carrying us on to the January fall. Scarlet fever is low from January to July; it rises in August, and is high till the end of December. Typhoid fever is typically an ailment of the autumn.