

QUESTION BOX

Is there a book on the life of Victor Vifquain? If not, is there one under contemplation? None that we know of, either present or in prospect.

Will you please explain "The Romberg test," and also the Argyll-Robertson pupil test, terms used by Mr. Jerome in the Thaw trial.

In a medical dictionary we find that "Romberg's sign, or symptom," is "the increased incoordination of movement in tables caused by placing the feet in juxtaposition and closing the eyes." Tables is more commonly called locomotor ataxia. The Argyll-Robertson pupil test is a test of the same disease, the early symptom indicated by the fact that a myotic pupil responds on accommodative effort, but not to light.

What is the present total of Rockefeller's gifts to education? Carnegie's? Rockefeller's latest gift of over thirty millions makes his total about \$79,000,000. Carnegie's gifts to libraries and universities now aggregate about \$150,000,000.

Please give the acreage and yield of the principal farm crops last year.

Table with 3 columns: Crop, Acreage, Production. Lists crops like Corn, Winter wheat, Spring wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Buckwheat, Flaxseed, Rice, Hay, Tobacco, and Potatoes.

What is the address of Clem Deaver? A letter addressed to O'Neill, Neb., where he occupied a position in the land office until not long ago ought to reach him.

How many negroes are there now in the United States? Seven years ago, when the last census was taken there were 9,653,000.

Where can I purchase a cook book of Madam Begue, the noted cook of New Orleans who died recently? Madam Begue seems to have devoted herself exclusively to cooking, since no cook book bearing her name appeared.

Please print the names of the persons who have been given places in the hall of fame in New York. The numbers after each name are the number of votes received.

- List of names and vote counts: Elected in 1909: Authors: Emerson (87); Longfellow (85); Irving (83); Hawthorne (73). Teachers: Edwards (82); Mann (67); Beecher (64); Channing (58). Scientists: Fulton (86); Morse (82); Whitney (69); Audubon (67); Asa Gray (61). Soldiers: Grant (93); Farragut (79); Lee (68). Jurists: Marshall (91); Kent (65); Story (64). Statesmen: Washington (97); Lincoln (96); Webster (96); Franklin (94); Jefferson (91); Clay (74); John Adams (62).

Septimi (under this title, "the seventh ones," are grouped those who are not comprised in the six classes designated by specific names): Peapody (75); Peter Cooper (69); Stuart (52). Elected in 1905:

Famous Americans of native birth: John Q. Adams (60); James R. Lowell (59); William T. Sherman (58); James Madison (56); John G. Whittier (53). Famous Americans of foreign birth: Alexander Hamilton (88); Louis Agassiz (81); John P. Jones (55). Famous American women: Mary Lyon (59); Emma Willard (50); Maria Mitchell (48).

Please print Bret Harte's Greypoint Legend. They ran through the streets of the seaport town, they peered from the decks of the ships that lay, The cold sea-fog that came whitening down Was never so cold or white as they, "Ho, Starbuck and Pinckney and Tenderden! Run for you shallows, gather your men, Scatter your boats on the lower bay." Good cause for fear! In the thick mid-day The bulk that lay by the rotting pier, Filled with the children in happy play, Parted its moorings and drifted clear— Drifted clear beyond the reach or call— Thirteen children they were in all— All adrift in the lower bay!

Said a hard-faced skipper, "God help us all! She will not float till the turning tide!" Said his wife, "My darling will near my call. Whether in sea or heaven she bids."

And she lifted a quavering voice and high, Wild and strange as a sea-bird's cry, Till they shuddered and wondered at her side.

The fog drove down on each laboring crew, Veiled each from each and the sky and shore; There was not a sound but the breath they drew, And the lay of water and creak of oar; And they felt the breath of the downs, fresh blown O'er leagues of clover and cold gray stone, But not from the lips that had gone before.

The come no more. But they tell the tale, That, when fogs are thick on the harbor's reef, The mackerel-fishers shorten sail; For the signal they know will bring relief; For the voices of children, still at play In phantom hulk that drifts alway Through channel whose waters never fail.

It is but a foolish shipman's tale, A theme for a poet's idle page; But still, when the mists of doubt prevail, And we lie becalmed by the shores of Age, We hear from the misty troubled shore The voice of the children gone before, Drawing the soul to its anchorage.

What is the present gold production in the United States? The latest figures seem to be for the year 1905. For that year a report issued by the United States geological survey puts the total production of gold at 4,265,742 fine ounces, valued at \$88,189,700; the total production of silver was 56,191,600 fine ounces, valued at \$34,221,976, making an entire total value of \$122,402,676. The production of gold in the United States for 1905 represents an increase of \$7,716,000 in value over the production of 1904. The rapid advance in gold production which began in 1892, but temporarily halted from 1901 to 1903 was resumed in 1904. This increase in 1904 over the output of 1903 was approximately \$7,000,000, and in all probability the increase in 1906 over 1905 will be at least the same amount. The chief sources of the great increase are as follows: Alaska added about \$6,000,000 to its output of \$9,160,458 in 1904, and Colorado, Nevada and Utah added about \$1,000,000 each to their production of the previous year. On the other hand, decreases are noted in Arizona, Idaho and other states. The states producing over \$1,000,000 in gold rank at present in the following order: Colorado, California, Alaska, South Dakota, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Arizona, Oregon and Idaho.

Is there any law in the state of Nebraska forbidding local school boards to charge for tuition of high school scholars of adjoining school districts? Not that we can find any trace of.

Is it true that nitrate beds of Chili are about exhausted? Conflicting stories are told about the nitrate beds of Chili. Rumors have been current in this country and Europe to the effect that the supply was limited and likely to give out in twenty-five years, if the present rate of consumption is maintained. This statement is now contradicted by the United States Consul at Valpariso. He says that a Chilean official whose business it is to keep track of the matter is quoted by "The Chilean Times" as saying that the government still possesses two million hectares of nitrate grounds. Even if the deposits were limited to one million hectares they ought to yield then thousand million pounds a year, but even if it were eighty million the supply ought to last one hundred and twenty-five years. "If to these one million hectares belonging to the state," says the official, "there be added the grounds belonging to private persons, the number of years of duration would be three or four times greater."

Please give the plural of "tailor's goose." Tailor's geese. What is the second highest mountain in the world? That does not seem to be established beyond doubt. Possibly Dapsang mountain in India, 28,700 feet. I occasionally see in Nebraska papers the expression "got my sidetrack" signifying seemingly that one who gets his sidetrack the stops trying to get anything else. What is the origin of the expression? This comes from a story of a member of a former legislature who introduced a bill to compel railroads to grant sites for elevators on side tracks. He was interested in getting a side track to an

elevator in his district, and one day explained his loss of interest in his bill by saying "I got my sidetrack."

UP-TO-DATE

THE income tax was paid in the United Kingdom year before last by 3,582 corporations, 80,129 public companies, 57,244 business firms and 456,571 individual British subjects. Total gross income, \$2,347,708,940. The number of British subjects taxed on incomes in excess of \$50,000 a year was 212, the number taxed on incomes in excess of \$250,000 a year was 24.

A curious custom connected with the Servian army is the manner in which most of the regiments carry the big drum. It is not, as in most countries, slung in front of the man who plays it, but is placed upon a small two-wheeled cart drawn by a large dog, which has been so trained that it keeps its place even through the longest and most tedious of marches. The drummer takes up a position behind the cart and performs on the instrument as it moves along.

The absence of springs on ice skates has been more or less of a mystery. That they are needed is an undisputed fact, as the skater has no means of lessening the jarring naturally incident to the uneven surface of the ice. A New York inventor, noticing the total absence of springs on ice skates, experimented with them and found them desirable in every way. The springs are placed between the steel runner and the plates for the reception of the toe and the heel of the shoe. The addition of the springs also tends to ease the feet while skating, besides greatly adding to the enjoyment of the sport in other ways.

A report has been received from the department of agriculture in India showing the extent of the war carried on against the Bombay locust. In all some 1,500,000,000 individual eggs, adult locusts and "hoppers" were accounted for. Of this number 60,000,000 were adults that would have produced another 3,000,000,000 "hoppers" had they lived. This slaughter cost about \$65,000 in awards and saved probably millions in the value of crops. Nature also helped. The report adds that jari birds arrived on the scene in large flocks and devoured the locusts greedily, so that the preservation of the crops was due possibly "as much to these birds as to the effects of human agency."

East St. Louis now has the biggest steam whistle in the world. It is a remarkable triple machine, with three voices—a three-chime whistler, whose capacity for the annihilation of peace is extraordinary. This whistle blows a ten-mile blast at half steam, and with favorable wind has a disturbing power of twenty miles. It costs \$1 every time it is blown. But this great whistle is not all noise. It is an idea in economy, a "whistle trust," a noise combine. Almost all the little noises, yelps, toots and whines of smaller mechanical throats in East St. Louis are now dumb. The giant whistle trust whistles off for them. The independent whistles have to whistle off time to be heard. Within the range of this whistle are said to be one hundred thousand people who tell time by it.

A Vienna artist, writing about Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper," says: "Atmospheric changes and the dust and soot from the factories which are near the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie have made the picture a wreck, and only a small part of the original work is left. Another potent cause for the great loss may be found in Leonardo's use of material which lacked the proper adhesive qualities. Artists who went to Milan to study the problem have agreed that the fresco cannot be detached from the wall, and none of them has suggested a plan by which the disintegration may be arrested."

A register of sanitary hairdressing establishments, with a penalty for failure to comply with the regulations, is a plan of the health officers of Budapest. Among the recommendations of the medical adviser are that regular customers should provide their own toilet requisites; that all shelves and fittings should be made of glass; that the use of puffs should be discarded for a better method of applying powder; that a barber or hairdresser should refuse to attend a customer apparently suffering from disease of skin or hair, and that all razors and combs should before using be kept five minutes in a 5 per cent solution of sodium carbonate.

Referring to the recent appointment of Dr. Bauer as chief rabbi of the principality of Monaco, the American Israelite says: "He will hardly be kept very busy by the duties of his office,

as the Jews who visit the famous gambling resort will not, in all likelihood, have great need of spiritual ministrations. Statistical handbooks do not give the number of Jews living in the principality. The Princess of Monaco, as is well known, is of the Heine family, but her marriage was dissolved about five years ago."

The greatest deer hunt on record in Canada was that in the wilds of Ontario in the open season in November. From the latest returns received by the Grand Trunk railway system, the lines of which tap the best territory in the province for fish and game, it appears that the hunters had the fullest measure of success. In the fifteen days of the open season of 1906 the Canadian Express company alone transported 3,100 carcasses of deer, having an aggregate weight of 318,215 pounds, all of these being shipped from points on the northern and Ottawa divisions of the Grand Trunk. When it is considered that about five thousand hunters were operating in the several districts of the province in the open season, and that the game laws of Ontario allow the killing of only two deer by each hunter, it can be conservatively estimated that no fewer than ten thousand deer were killed in the province between November 1 and 15.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

Brier wood for the pipes of American smokers is imported in great quantities from Italy. The larger part of the Italian brier wood is found along the Mediterranean coast. A kind of grubbing spade with one sharp edge for cutting away the large billet or heart of the root (the valuable part) from the surrounding small roots is used in this work. After being thoroughly cleaned and trimmed it is brought to the mill and by means of circular saws cut into small blocks corresponding roughly to the shape of a pipe bowl and stem. These blocks are of various sizes, depending upon the dimension and shape of the billet. Afterward they are immersed in boiling water for a period of about twelve hours and then thoroughly dried. This process completed, they are sorted, the imperfect pieces being thrown aside, placed in large jute bags and are then ready for shipment. The waste pieces unsuitable for pipes are sold for firewood.

In Chile, at any rate, the Japanese immigrant is made welcome. The Chilean government offers considerable inducements to agricultural and fishing immigrants. Forty acres of rich land are given outright to each settler; twenty more to each son eighteen years of age or more; a yoke of oxen, a set of farm implements and \$15 a month in cash for the first year. This is regarded as an excellent inducement to the Japanese farmer to leave his little farm of something less than an acre and go to Chile. Moreover, a practical monopoly of the entire fishing industry of a country having 3,000 miles of coast abounding in splendid fish, but practically without a fishing class, holds out an additional bait to a people versed in sea fishing. Real storehouses of delight for the visitor are the bazaars of Tunis. One merchant has a \$5,000 carpet which he likes to display. This huge flimsy creation he will fling into the air for the benefit of a possible customer and allow it to settle itself gradually on the ground. This it does unlike an ordinary carpet. So exquisitely fine is the weaving that it imprisons air bubbles large enough to hold a man.

WHY SO POPULAR

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