

bluff. They would have laughed in their sleeves had he done otherwise. In their hearts they know they are fortunate, and the country too, that the task of driving them back to their reservation has fallen into the hands of a president so unswerving and so un-fanatical as the present one.

THE MERIT SYSTEM.

Foreign critics of American management in the Philippines, Panama, Porto Rico and Cuba unite in praise on one point. Plenty of fault is found with the ways of officials appointed because of party service at home to govern subject people abroad; but the efficiency of the sanitary departments is not seriously questioned. The feat of turning Havana into a health resort, the more difficult task of reducing the death rate in Manila, and the triumph of Major Gorgas in the canal zone are pretty generally acknowledged to be achievements unsurpassed of their kind. But one explanation for the notable efficiency of this department is apparent, the fact that its work was done by men chosen for that purpose. Men chosen to do other forms of work worked as hard and as conscientiously, perhaps, but they had been chosen with reference to their ability to manipulate a convention or "bring in" their ward, and that kind of ability does not carry far in dealing with Malays and problems of tropical administration. The country will be interested to observe whether the new policy of appointing consuls to foreign cities with reference to their fitness for their duties will eventually give our consular service the reputation now enjoyed by other departments whose membership is recruited by like methods. The first consular examination has been held, with the result that the 100 applicants for sixteen positions yielded ten eligibles.

It requires only a glance at the new Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the blind to show that it is a costly publication to produce. The sheets are twelve inches wide and fourteen inches long, and the fifty pages of heavy, pulpy paper make a thickness of nearly an inch. The paper is printed wet and hardened to withstand the pressure of the reading fingers. Mrs. Ziegler, who has endowed the magazine, is anxious that a copy be placed in the hands of every blind person in the United States. As no list of such persons is available, a general appeal for names is made through the press. Such names should be sent to Walter G. Holmes, 1931 Broadway, New York, with a statement whether New York Point or Braille type is desired. The magazine will be sent free to blind people who cannot afford to pay for it, but it is expected that a nominal sum will be paid in order to insure interest of the reader and to keep the subscription list in a live condition. The actual cost of producing the magazine is about \$3 a year.

The inception of this beneficent work was a letter sent to a New York newspaper by Mr. Holmes, a former newspaper man of Memphis, Tenn., calling attention to the pressing need of more abundant and cheaper literature for the blind. While an edition of Ben Hur can be bought in type for a dollar or less, the blind must pay \$10.50 for a copy. Other works are also at almost equally prohibitive prices. Mrs. Ziegler was interested because she has a blind son, and is determined to use some of her wealth in meeting this great need.

Millionaire Rudolph Spreckles made possible the rout of the grafters in San Francisco by underwriting the expense of the anti-graft investigation. It is respectfully submitted to money-burdened men everywhere that here is a way to do good with their surplus wealth which can be adopted and no honest man impugn their motives. Why does the public look with distrust upon the gifts for charitable or educational purposes of some of our great millionaires? For the reason that these men are believed to have profited from and helped to create bad or inefficient government, by the special privilege method, and that in making gifts to the public carefully abstain from giving for any purpose that would tend to jeopardize their special and unjust advantages. They have the appearance of George Elliot's character who never stole a goose, but he gave the giblets to the poor. The motives behind J. Pierpont Morgan's gift to a New York charity may be doubted, but a gift of funds to be used in flushing the city of the official graft through which it is believed his public service corporations retain their grasp on New York city politics and people, would be subject to no such suspicions.

Railroad wrecks as a rule constitute fine advertisements for the Pullman sleeping car service. This was the case with the Colton wreck in California Thursday, in which twenty-odd passengers, only two of whom sustained injuries worth noting. This was due partly to the heavier construction of the Pullman cars, and partly to their position at the rear of the

train. No doubt the long observation of this rule by the traveling public has had something to do with the ability of the Pullman company to turn its monopoly to the pleasant task of paying eight per cent dividends on fifty millions or so of hydraulic stock. Two courses suggest themselves to the public in connection with these matters. One is to demand ordinary passenger coaches built to withstand shocks as are Pullman coaches. Another is to reduce Pullman rates to within hailing distance of the cost of service. There is at present a disposition to do both.

Rumors that Emperor William has definitely decided to enroll his fifth son, Prince Oscar, at Harvard next September have been confirmed. One reason given for this decision is a desire on the part of the emperor to have his son grow up with a son of President Roosevelt. The president will have two sons at Harvard next year. This is, of course, not the broad reason. That is no doubt found in the general German policy of getting acquainted with the manners and habits of thought of other countries and as far as possible to win their good will. This is the deliberate policy of every ambitious nation except, perhaps, the United States. This country is full of Japanese students, whose knowledge of American ways and institutions will be invaluable to Japan in her future dealings with us. Just so the future of China lies very much with the 13,000 Chinese students now in Japan seeking for the secret of Japan's power to hold her own with the occident.

Spain's twenty-year-old king is still, it seems, very much of the boy. Every once in a while he drops unexpectedly into the unconventional in a way productive of much embarrassment to his entourage.

His latest prank was played in the great cathedral at Leon, to which, with his queen, he recently paid an unofficial visit. He had gone alone into the organ-loft, and had begun to play a chant—for Alfonso's education has made him an organist of ability as well as a linguist—when with no warning whatever he switched off into a sharp military march, at the same time calling out in a loud voice:

"Attention! Quick step! Forward!"

Priests and suite were for the instant too surprised to do anything but gasp—and the next minute there was the solemn strain of the chant again, with the laughter of the king heard beneath it.

If the common report can be trusted, when Secretary Taft reaches Cuba he will find eighty per cent of the voting population eager to convince him that the American protectorate should be lifted and elections called at once under the suspended constitution. He will find on examination that eighty per cent of this eighty per cent expect an office when the new arrangement is effected. There is nothing remarkable in that to an American, but the trouble is that a Cuban office seeker is not gifted, like his American brother, with the power to take defeat peaceably. The leaders of the majority party realizing the impossibility of creating an office for every man who wants one, hope to induce Mr. Taft to leave the American troops in the island for a time after the republic is re-established to protect them from the vengeance of disappointed patriots.

A New-Yorker who has just returned from the south was most strikingly impressed by the vagaries of the southern railroads, and he offers this illustration: When he arrived at the station he was much surprised to find that the 11:15 started promptly on time. "Well," said he to the conductor, "they libel you up north, where they say your trains are never on time, either coming or going."

"The northerners are right," was the unexpected response of the conductor. "We never got a train off in time in our lives."

"Why, this train got off on time. It's the 11:15, isn't it?"

"Yes, my friend, it's the 11:15, but it's last Tuesday's 11:15. Today's 11:15 won't start much before Monday, I reckon."

According to the census bureau the growth in population in the United States from 1905 to 1906 was 1,367,315. A glance at the immigration records shows that 1,100,735 of these were added by immigration. This leaves for the natural increase a trifle over a quarter of a million, about a fifth of one per cent. With immigration stopped that would be a near approach to equilibrium.

Morocco is revealed by the recent troubles in a state of hopeless anarchy. Roumania is behaving abominably even for a Balkan state. The set in Central America threatens to spread to all the states of that region. All three are offering excellent excuses for some sedate big neighbor to bind them over to keep the peace. France is already on the way to Morocco.

Tests For Shoppers' Use

Points About Buying Silks, Linens and Woolens.

Shopping tests for linens, silks and woolens are simple and easily applied: In purchasing linen for sheets, pillow cases, napkins and tablecloths, fineness is to be desired. A linen tester, a small magnifying glass, by means of which the threads in a given space are counted, is essential to determine this point.

One can tell the quality, perhaps, as much by the feel of linens as by any more complex method. There is a crisp feeling to pure linen that is unmistakable. When crushed in the hand it yields with a crunching sensation which denotes its purity. It has also a slippery feeling quite different from cotton, which is dead and unelastic when run through the hand.

If linen fabrics are frayed at the edges and the threads pull out it will be found that they will unravel without breaking, while cotton threads will break or snap in two.

Another test for linen, and one in vogue with old-fashioned housekeepers is to dampen the finger and hold it beneath the material. If the moisture appears on the surface it is a pretty good test that the material is linen, but if there is no dampness visible then one may be pretty sure that the material is cotton. Cotton absorbs the water while the linen does not.

A very good test for linen is to unravel a portion, taking a couple of threads, one of the warp and one of the woof, and to touch a match to them. If cotton is present in the weave the thread will burn quickly, leaving a charred bit. If linen, it will be longer in burning.

In drawing threads from both fabrics it will be found that the linen ones will hold their body, while cotton will draw the material away and usually snap off quickly before the thread is half pulled out.

In buying handkerchiefs one can pull them cornerwise. If the threads draw evenly it is good proof of the material being all linen, while if cotton the handkerchief will pull unevenly. Linen handkerchiefs of the best quality should have at least 2,800 threads to the inch. This, however, relates only to those fine sheer squares of linen which retail for several dollars each. Those of good quality which retail at 50 cents or 75 cents each should show from 1,300 to 1,400 threads.

It is probably in the buying of silks that the greater number of women are taken in. Frequently it is their own fault; they are tempted by bargains, and good silk is always expensive.

In one of the large dry goods shops in New York city there is a man who has presided over the silk counter for more than fifty years. By simply running the silk between his fingers he can tell where it comes from, its purity, its quality and its cost. This is the result of long experience. Once a woman becomes accustomed to the feel of pure silk she never forgets it.

There is a slipperiness and crushable-

ness about pure silk that stamps it as the real article. There is also an unmistakable swish about pure silk. Then if one takes the material in both hands and snaps it there is a report like a pistol shot from a pure silk which will aid in the selection.

Materials in which the threads running both ways are silk are springy and to the touch full of life and electricity, while those part silk, with cotton admixtures, are dull and heavy, or perhaps lifeless is the better term. In taffeta there is a high sheen and lustre in the best qualities which is convincing, while pongee has a dull finish. With louisines the softer and finer the more to be desired they are.

To determine if silks are mixed with cotton set a lighted match to a sample after unravelling the threads out. If there is cotton present in the fabric then it will burn rapidly, curling up almost in a flash into a crisp, while the silk will hardly have started to burn.

This same test may be applied to wool materials in which is suspected that cotton may be woven. Cotton burns very rapidly, while the woolen threads smoke and smoulder. Then there is an unmistakable odor about burning wool.

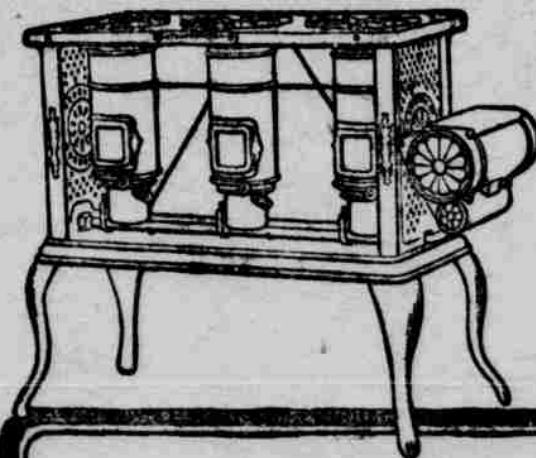
If one takes up a piece of wool cloth and a piece in which cotton is present the former will feel very soft and yielding to the touch, while the latter will be hard and rather smooth than otherwise. A wool surface when rubbed is rough. In unravelling out woolen materials when the threads are untwisted, the wool will fray and the ends curl up, while cotton will break off evenly without any ends.

A chemical test which can be employed at home is the application of muriatic or nitric acid to woolens. If a sample of wool goods is dipped into one or the other of these chemicals it will turn a reddish yellow color if no foreign threads are present. If cotton is present the chemical eats it away immediately, leaving behind the yellow warp or woof.

Women have often been subjected to disappointment in buying jetted laces for handsome reception or dinner gowns. There will be advertised a beautiful looking robe gown for, say, \$25, and alongside another for \$125. To all appearances there is very little difference, and a woman purchases the cheaper of the two only to find to her sorrow the first time she wears it that she has left behind her a trail of paillettes to mark her path.

In the cheaper gown the jets are simply run on without being fastened securely, and as a consequence when the thread breaks they all go. So if one desires to be economical in the buying of jetted robes it is well to go over the entire pattern with strong silk and knot each piece securely.

Black silk nets either in all-over or in edgings that have cotton in them present a gray look when the materials is held up to the light on a level with the eye. There is such a thing, of course, as having a lace all silk but yet not a good black, but the difference between what is termed a good black and that peculiar gray appearance is the test the buyer should apply when investing in these finer grades of goods.



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