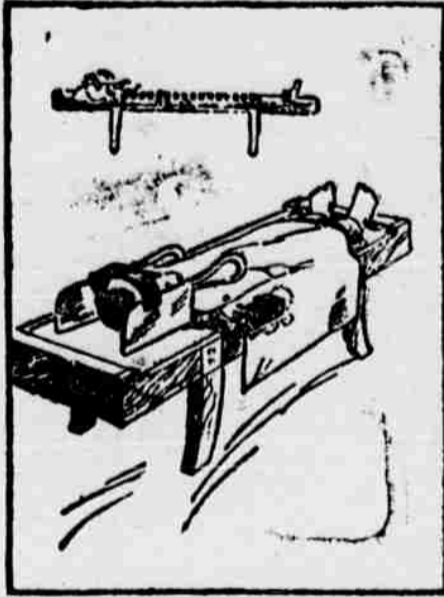


EASY TO INCREASE HEIGHT.

Apparatus That Will Accomplish Task Recently Patented.

The Bertillon system has received a sad blow in the demonstration of the fact that a person may to a very great extent change his physical proportions. Postal Inspector William Williams, attached to the Denver post-office, has taken it on himself to show how this could be done, and some time ago he subjected himself to an examination and then started in on a systematic scheme for the purpose of bringing about such changes in his general shape and appearance as to



make it difficult to identify him by the measurements previously made by the Bertillon system, which were thought to be infallible. At the time of the first examination Mr. Williams weighed 190 pounds and measured 5 feet 2 inches, and after going through a somewhat prolonged course of training he weighed 150 pounds and measured 5 feet 4 inches in height. The system of physical culture taken up by Mr. Williams in his experiment was that of loosening the bones in their sockets and allowing the space where they were pulled apart at the joints to fill with cartilage. By this method the body is lengthened without over-development of the muscles, such as is the case in physical training adopted by athletes.

Then in order to effectually prove his ground that the Bertillon system was worthless, Williams submitted himself to arrest in several different cities where the system was made use of in the identification of criminals and in no case was he recognized by the original record. The ability to increase the height was the one thing which broke down the certainty of the Bertillon system.

An apparatus to produce this increased height was recently awarded a patent and a drawing of the instrument is shown herewith. In a few words, the subject is placed on a sort of a rack, with the head and feet securely fastened, and by the application of a screw the subject is literally stretched. By undergoing this operation at regular intervals it is said to be possible to make even greater additions to the height than Mr. Williams succeeded in doing.

Took Railroad Coal.

The Kansas Southwestern a short branch road running out of Arkansas City, has opened up a conscience fund account. Some time ago the agent at Caldwell received the following letter: "Agent—Will you please send the address of the superintendent of the Frisco depot, or where shall I write to make a wrong right?"

The required address was given, and the following letter came as a response: "Dear Sir—When I was a small child I took some of the railroad company's coal, which I wish to pay for, as I am now a child of God, and heaven and lost souls are my only desires."

In the letter was enclosed a postoffice order for 75 cents.

One-Handed Tennis Champion.

The woman tennis champion of New Zealand has but one hand, and that is the left one, but she can serve a ball that is difficult to return.

"Mortgage Lifters."

Here are three specimen ears from a field of corn grown in Potawattemie county, Iowa. They were sent to the World labeled "Mortgage Lifters." They certainly measure up to this name.

The smallest of the three ears is 13 inches long and 2 inches in diameter.



On it are 300 grains of rich yellow corn, distributed in fourteen rows.

On the largest ear there are 1,000 grains in sixteen longitudinal rows.

The three ears weigh five pounds, and would provide a hearty meal for a hard-working horse.

Placed beside one of these big golden ears an ordinary ear of corn looks like a "nubbin," such as is passed over and left in the shuck at a husking bee.

Though many banks have failed in Iowa recently, this photograph certainly is proof that the corn crop has not failed.—New York World.

Queer Corner of Earth.

One of the queerest corners of the earth is Chatham island, off the coast of Ecuador. This island lies 600 miles west of Guayaquil, and the equator runs directly through it. Capt. Reinman, who was sent to the Galapagos group of islands to inquire into the proper grounding of a deep sea cable, stopped at Chatham island, and says it abounds in cats, every one of which is black. These animals live in the crevices of the lava foundation near the coast, and subsist by catching fish and crabs, instead of rats and mice. Other animals found on this island are horses, cattle, dogs, goats and chickens, all of which are perfectly wild.

Esparto Grass.



From sparto grass, grown in southern Europe and Spain, are manufactured printing paper, cordage, shoes, matting, baskets, nets, mattresses, etc. Espartero, the celebrated Spanish bull fighter, was so called because his father was a dealer in this grass.

Hog Beats Horse in a Fight.

A horse and a hog owned by Charles A. Young of Enon engaged in a fierce fight recently. The horse was so badly injured that it had to be killed.—Springfield Correspondence Cincinnati Enquirer.

ARTIFICIAL SOD NOW MADE.

Intended Chiefly to Supply Demand from Large Cities.

The demand for sod in a large city is greater than can be supplied from the surrounding country, with the result that grass for transplanting is now shipped long distances, and the price is correspondingly high. It is no wonder, then, that an artificial sod has been made. The green sod is capable of transplanting at any time of the year and has the advantage of presenting a reasonably green sward at once, whereas the artificial sod takes on its emerald hue only after the



warm sun has smiled upon it. The inventor of the latter, however, claims that one is rewarded for this delay by the superior appearance of the grass when it finally does make its appearance, being uniform in its character and free from weeds and other undesirable growth.

The sod consists of rich soil with grass seed embedded therein, the mass being pressed or dried in a sheet which is laid on the ground where the growth of grass is desired. With a little care or water nature will do the rest.

Oldest Man in Germany.

The oldest man in Germany—or who is believed to be so—has just celebrated his 111th birthday, or to be more exact, the 111th anniversary of his christening, which took place, as is recorded in the official registers, on Dec. 2, 1793. His name is Kaspar Griesser, and he lives at Lorsch, in Hesse, where he follows the plow even now. During the whole of his life he has never quitted his native place for more than a day.

Fashion Note.



Stone Weapons Centuries Old.

A plowman at Culmore, in the south of Scotland, surprised recently at the number of worked flints his plowshare was turning up, communicated with the local antiquarians. Excavations disclosed an entire workshop of stone weapons, in every stage of manufacture, just as they had been left by the primitive laborers who manufactured them. There are altogether 1,000 of these flint weapons, all beautifully chipped into leaf-shaped arrowheads or hammers.

New Things for the Table.

New things for the table are constantly making their appearance in the china shops and at the silversmiths, and many of these novelties are particularly well worth noticing.

The accompanying illustration shows three new productions that are serviceable for the luncheon or tea table. The distinctive note about the bonbon dish is its shape, which exactly resembles a peapod—the pale green tint of the ware carrying out the resemblance completely. The silversmith contributed the tongs, which



differ from those in ordinary use by being patterned after the wishbone, which in these days serves as a model for various articles of jewelry, as well as table ware. Grape fruit is a pleasing addition to the luncheon menu, as it is also for breakfast and the most approved way of serving it in a glass such as is here portrayed. The fruit is placed in the smaller receptacle and the latter inserted in the goblet, the space between the two glasses being filled with shaved ice.

Horse Brought Home Dead Master.

A strange crime is puzzling the police of Bergamo, Italy. At a late hour in the night, a horse and trap belonging to Signor Laroupi, a well known citizen, drew up in front of his house.

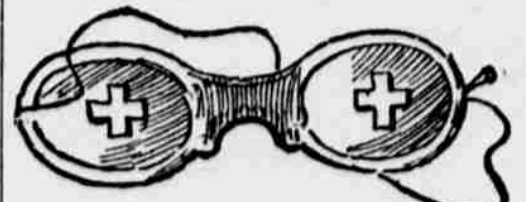
On the seat was Signor Laroupi's headless body, with the reins tightly wrapped around the hands.

The crime is believed to have been committed by members of a secret society, among whom Signor Laroupi had enemies.

The head was afterward found in a sack containing Christmas presents, which the murdered man had purchased in a neighboring town earlier in the day.

After decapitating their victim, the murderers had secured the body in the trap and whipped up the horse. The animal having frequently traveled by the same road, found its way home.

Wooden Goggles.



The sailors of the Discovery on their antarctic expedition made wooden spectacles like this to shield their eyes from the blinding glare of the sun on the snow.

Fright Caused Loss of Hair.

Paul Bowles, a ten-year-old son of a Bolivar, N. Y., merchant, lost his hair by fright. A runaway horse threw the boy in convulsions, which caused all the hair on his head to fall out.