

ONLY PARTLY CONVINCED.

Man with Money Order Was Completely Overhauled by Clerk Who Sought Identification.

The clerk in the money order division of the post office looked sharply at the man who had presented an order to be cashed, says the Chicago Tribune.

"Who sent you this?" he demanded.

"John Philander Avery," replied the man.

The clerk hunted up the letter of advice and compared it with the order.

"Is your name Absalom Ricketts?"

"Yes, sir."

"Have you anything in your pockets to identify you?"

"Yes. Here's the letter the order came in."

The clerk examined the super-scription carefully.

"Anything else?"

"Yes, sir. Here's a lot of other letters with my name on the envelopes."

"Anything else?"

"Here is my accident insurance policy."

He handed it over and then proceeded to dig from his inside pockets and submit for examination his cards of membership in the Y. M. C. A., Lonesomehurst Improvement association, and Civic Reform league, together with receipts for dues from the secretaries of several other societies of which he was a member.

"Anything else?"

"Nothing but this postal card notification that my taxes are due."

The clerk pounced upon this, examined it on both sides, made a memorandum on a sheet of paper, questioned him as to his house address, business address and occupation, eyed him suspiciously, and then grudgingly handed over the money—\$4.65.

"Are you sure even now?" asked the man. "I might have knocked some fellow down and taken all these away from him, you know."

The clerk made a grab at him, but it was too late.

The man had the money.

ONE BOY A YEAR THERE.

Situation Given as Cause for Fact That Most Children Born Are Girls.

The startling fact has just been brought out that of all the births that have occurred at Carson City, the capital of Nevada, during the past year, only one boy has been born. The total number of births according to statistics, was 57; 56 of these young Nevadans are girls. Physicians state that it is not unusual for the ratio to be uneven, and in favor of the girls, but they cannot recall where the percentage has been so great. They offer no explanation for the strange condition.

"It just happened that way, I guess," said one of the Carson doctors. "We noticed the shortage in the number of births so far as boys were concerned, but, really, until a few days ago, gave the matter but little thought. It was

brought to my attention by Controller Sam Davis. I have since tried to solve the mystery, but without result."

Environment is given as a solution by one resident of Carson. The city, naturally isolated, is beautifully situated in a valley; trees and shrubbery and pretty homes abound. Except during the session of the legislature, there is seldom anything out of the ordinary going on. These quiet conditions, it is argued, naturally result in a feminine temperament, the preponderance of girls in the birth records resulting.

Gaston's Point of View.

"Ze American, ah mon Dieu, he iss a very funny man. He know nothing but ze dollar. He have no love of beauty or art. He do not comprenz." "What's on your mind, Gaston?" "To-day I see a beautiful lady, cleclair, distingue, magnifeecent. She is with a man, an American. I go to him. I say: 'Pardon, monsieur, what is ze lady's name?' The gentleman he say: 'That's my business!' Bah! Beesness, beesness, all de time. He was a rude man."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

A Periodical Pupil.

"I understand she learned to skate last winter."

"Yes. She learns every winter."—N. Y. Times.

BEAUTY OF BAYEUX WORK.

Few Except Those Who Visit the Shops Have Studied Wonders in Needlework.

Few besides those who have visited Bayeux or have especially studied the subject have any idea of what this extraordinary work of art is really like or have any authentic knowledge of its history. It tells the story of Edward, Harold and William, and of the conquest of William, in a series of pictures, so that its value is great as a chronicle as well as a relic of needlework 800 years old.

The vicissitudes of the treasure have been many. It is a curious fact that from 1476 until 1724 it seems to have dropped entirely out of the world's knowledge. It was preserved with care among the treasures of the Bayeux cathedral and was brought out for eight days every summer and hung about the nave of the cathedral. No one but the peasants ever saw it and the cathedral authorities cared for it only as a decoration. In 1724 an old drawing of part of the tapestry came into the hands of a learned antiquarian, who tried without success to find the original. The Pere Montfaucon also tried to find it and at last succeeded and told the world about it in his great book, "Monuments de la Monarchie Francaise."

The church had no power to protect such a treasure in 1724, and the ancient length of linen with its quaint embroidery was dragged out of the cathedral and used to cover one of the military wagons belonging to the local battalion. M. le Forestier rushed to its rescue and substituted a canvas to cover the wagon and

brought the tapestry to his study till he was relieved from the self-appointed mission by a commission who undertook the protection of the work of art. Now the tapestry has been restored and may be seen framed under glass in a museum of its own.

THE MEANING OF JAPAN.

Rise of New Oriental Power Is Likely to Mark an Epoch in World's History.

Europe scarcely even yet recognizes how prodigious an influence this rise of a new power on the edge of Asia, in the ocean which must, decade by decade, increase in importance till its freedom will preoccupy all maritime powers as the freedom of the Atlantic does now, will exercise on her policy, her ambitions, and her commerce. Throw aside all apprehensions about the "yellow peril," leave China out of the calculations as sunk in irredeemable dotage, assume Japan to stand alone, and still Europe has to reckon with a power which ten years hence will have twice Togo's fleet, and which has proved that wherever she can land an army, an army of double its strength must be called out to render defeat of the defenders improbable. Of the ideas, aspirations and ultimate plans of that power nothing, it may be said, is known; but of her capacities and her strength we now at least know something. We know that she can keep a secret for years; that her people will fight to the death at the word of command; that she has the European belief in science, and that she counts among her statesmen and soldiers men of the intellectual capacity to control and guide huge masses of trained men to any end she has decided on. No king thinks that he can conquer Japan; no statesman imagines that he can set aside her vote in the Pacific or the Indian ocean as a negligible quantity. She may not govern China, but all the long-devised European plans for gaining dominant influence in China or in the archipelago must, without her permission, be abandoned.

HE HAD DECIDED TO WRITE

Telephone Not the Right Thing to Communicate Antagonistic Opinions Through.

He was a broad-backed man with an iron jaw, says the Topka State Journal, and there was a look of business about him as he entered the subtelephone station and said to the druggist:

"I would like to telephone to Jim Whalen over at Brighton."

"Well, there is the telephone over there," was the reply.

"But I'm not used to them. Would you mind talking for me?"

Business being slack just then, the druggist called up Brighton and Jim Whalen and then asked his caller what he should say:

"Tell him he's a liar, a thief, a scoundrel and a dead beat, and the first time I see him I'll knock his head off."

"But you see the telephone company forbids the use of any

such language. You will have to moderate it."

"What's that?"

"Why, you will have to tone it down. You might say to Mr. Whalen that he is a prevaricator."

"That means a liar, I believe, but Jim wouldn't understand it. He might think I was praising him. Can't I call him an unhung villain and the scum of the earth?"

"That would come under the head of violent language. You might say to him that the first time you meet him you will give him your opinion of his character."

"That won't do. Jim's a plain man and has got to be talked to in plain language. He has lied to me and I've got to call him a liar. He has cheated me and I've got to call him a swindler."

"That won't do. We must find some other way. You see—"

"And I can't call him names over the wire?"

"No!"

"And he's not to know what I think of him?"

"You might write him."

"Thunderation, but why didn't I think of that before! Of course that's the way to do. I've got nothing on hand to-morrow, and I'll buy a lot of writing paper and a lead pencil and spend half a day calling him a villain and a liar. I was told the telephone was a great thing, but when I come to look into it I find that if you want to do business with a man in a business way there's no invention like writing off 10 or 15 sheets of paper and sending 'em by mail."

TOLD OF ABSINTHE DRUG.

Is Described as the "Fairy with the Green Eyes"—Is a Nerve Stimulant.

The "fairy with the green eyes" is the poetical way in which absinthe has been described.

"It is rather a drug than a drink," said a medical man who has studied its effects on the body. "As a medicine it has some valuable qualities; as a beverage, its effects are simply deadly. Not a day passes in Paris on which some inveterate absinthe drinker does not drop dead either from apoplexy or heart failure. Fortunately, it has not obtained much hold in England."

"The liqueur is supposed to act as a nerve tonic and brain stimulant, and so it does when taken medicinally. When thus resorted to it gives tone to persons of a highly nervous temperament, and also has the effect of relieving bronchitis by promoting a healthy perspiration. But it should never be taken except under medical advice. As a beverage, avoid it as you would poison. Much of the cheap absinthe sold is adulterated with copper, to give it the characteristic green hue."

Infant Mortality in Germany.

More than 34 per cent. of the deaths in the German empire in 1903 were of infants under one year of age.