

RECLAIMING OLD TOPERS.

Curing Drunkenness Without the Patient's Knowledge Has Been Proven a Success.

Can inebriety be cured by suggestion? asks Public Opinion. This is a question which has been asked many times and satisfactorily answered in the affirmative. But the question of practicing suggestion while the patient sleeps is a different proposition.

"Dr. Farez decided to try, with the approval of the family of the patient, suggestion during natural sleep. The treatment took place four or five times per week, and, although the patient did not know what was going on, there was slow and steady improvement.

ST. PETERSBURG IS GAY.

With or Without War Enjoyment Goes on in the Russian Capital's Society.

War or no war, the aristocratic Russian pursues his pleasures with an abandonment that speaks of unlimited resources or unlimited recklessness. The pleasures of the table are protracted to an inordinate degree.

WIVES WHO NEVER SPEAK.

Tales of Several Spouses Who, During Their Natural Existence, Remained Mute.

A Korean woman is not permitted to speak or nod on her wedding day, says the New York Herald. Should she transgress she at once becomes an object of ridicule and loses caste.

Although no such universal custom is prevalent in the western world, extraordinary cases are not wanting. In the early forties a Mrs. Jones, living in Pennsylvania, undertook, for a wage of \$150, to remain mute for the first month of her marriage.

On the anniversary of their wedding day a Brussels couple named Dupont quarreled so bitterly that the wife, in a burst of passion, swore that her husband should never again hear the sound of her voice.

A Brunn woman whose husband was in hiding from the authorities inadvertently betrayed his whereabouts to a neighbor who was secretly in the pay of the police.

MINDS HIS OWN BUSINESS.

Youthful "Dude" Tourist Silences Stage Driver Who Hated to Be Interrogated.

Wallace Cummings used to drive the old stage which ran between Bridgton and Portland, says the Boston Herald. One day Wallace had as a passenger out of Portland a young city chap, or dude, as Wallace called him.

The old driver, who detested this sort of interrogation, stood it as long as he could. Finally he blurted out: "Say, stranger, if you'll mind your business I'll mind mine."

They had driven about ten miles farther when they came to a long hill, where the driver was obliged to ply the brake.

"Yes, I did; some ten miles back," calmly remarked the young man.

"Well, why in thunder didn't you tell me?" gasped the astonished stage driver.

The "dude" looked him squarely in the eye for a moment, and then he drawled: "Say, driver, you mind your business and I'll mind mine."

The rest of the journey was driven in cold silence.

GREAT IN BOYHOOD ALSO.

A Mirthful View of a Distinguished Statesman's Youth—Chauncey Depew, His Name.

One fine day in the summer of 1844 two ten-year-old boys who had been fishing in a stream near a little town in southern New York became hungry and went to a farmer's house to get something to eat, says the Chicago Tribune.

The farmer's wife gave them a bountiful supply of bread and milk, and refused to accept any pay for it.

One of the boys merely said: "Thank you, ma'am."

But the other wiped his mouth on his coat sleeve, bowed and expressed his gratitude at greater length.

"To say that you have conferred a great favor upon us, madam," he said, "and that we are correspondingly grateful, conveys the idea feebly. Here we are, miles from home, and suffering from hunger, having caught nothing in the little stream in which we were fishing. You have supplied our wants most generously. Out of the abundance of your larder you have ministered to the wants of two hungry strangers, and with a hospitality rare indeed in these days of sordid greed you have refused to accept any remuneration for the same.

"Good land, little boy!" exclaimed the farmer's wife, "what I done for you wasn't worth all that, but I like to hear you talk. You'll be a big man some day."

Her foresight was unerring. The boy grew up to be Chauncey Mitchell Depew, the greatest after-dinner orator of his day.

LINCOLN SECURED PARDON

"Tad," Son of the Illustrious, Brings About Desired Results for a Poor Woman.

A poor woman came to the white house one day to see President Lincoln about her husband, who was in trouble, says Success. The president was absent, but "Tad" was at home. The woman called the boy to her and said: "My husband is in prison. We have boys and girls at home who are cold and hungry. Your papa can unlock the door of the prison and let our children's papa come home and care for us. Won't you ask your father to let him come home?"

"Tad" could not talk or think of anything else but that poor, distressed family, and of his pledge to try and bring relief. When the president returned "Tad" was at him at once about the case of distress. Mr. Lincoln had other things on his mind, and did not pay much attention to the child till he clung to his father's legs and begged of him to sit down and let him tell the sad story.

"Papa-day (meaning 'papa, dear') won't you promise me now to let the man out?" It was too much for the great man, who said: "Taddie, my pet, I will let him out because you ask me to."

Strange Animal Rediscovered.

In 1873 a great rat-like rodent, named Dinomys, was discovered in the Peruvian Andes. But a single specimen was found, and this is now preserved in the Berlin museum. Last spring Dr. Goeldi, of Para, rediscovered the Dinomys in the lowlands of Brazil. Its natural habitat is now supposed to be the almost unexplored regions lying among the foothills of the Andes, between Brazil, Bolivia and Peru.

OUR PRODUCTION OF GOLD

Enormous Increase in This Line Has Caused Comment All Over the World.

The enormous increase in the production of gold with the consequent accumulation of the stocks of coin and bullion has attracted rather less attention in recent years than its importance would appear to demand, says the Louisville Courier-Journal. Nevertheless the subject is not wholly neglected, and the estimates of production and accumulation that are put out from time to time are more and more the subject of comment.

For the first 25 years after the discovery of America the annual production of gold was less than \$4,000,000. In the next quarter of a century it was in round numbers \$4,750,000. By the middle of the eighteenth century it had risen to over \$16,000,000 a year.

The world's stock of gold coin, including bullion in national treasuries which performs the functions of coin, was estimated in 1873 to be \$1,209,800,000, in 1897, \$4,359,600,000. By the end of the present year the total is estimated at little short of \$6,000,000, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. in nine years.

In Tibet.

Here is a description of a country scene in Tibet, taken from Col. L. A. Waddell's note book, "Lhasa and Its Mysteries."

"From every hamlet the cottagers had swarmed out into their fields, and were busily plowing and sowing in the glorious sunshine, forming pleasing bits of bright color. The men were plowing with oxen gaudily bedecked with plumes of wool dyed glowing scarlet and blue, with long throat tassels of dyed yak's tails and harness of jingling bells, while close behind the plowers came the gayly dressed women as the sowers, scattering broadcast the seeds from their baskets."

Answered by Suggestion.

"Do you really think I begin to show my years, Ella?" "Do you want me to answer frankly?"

"Why, yes, of course." "Then let us change the subject."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Not There Yet.

Claude—Don't you think my mustache is becoming? Maude—Well, it may be coming, but it hasn't got there yet.—N. Y. Times.

HOW JAPAN WAS COLONIZED

Traditional Account of Origin of Far Eastern Empire Proves Interesting.

One of the traditional accounts of the origin of the Japanese empire is interesting. The legend, which attributes the rise of these sprightly easterners to a Chinese source, runs as follows:

Sinosikwo ascended the throne of China in the year 246 B. C. and at once entered on a career of cruelty and tyranny. He was, nevertheless, most anxious to enjoy the privileges of his position for as long a period as possible.

For the purpose of obtaining some specific agent by which the duration of human life could be prolonged, he dispatched trusted messengers and explorers into all the countries with which he held any communication or of the whereabouts of which he could possibly obtain any knowledge.

Taking advantage of the circumstances, one of his medical attendants, who was living in hourly dread of a sudden sentence of death, told the emperor that he had learned that such an agent existed in the juice of a plant which grew only in the islands which now form the Japanese empire. The plant in question was also reported to be one of so delicate structure and sensitive a nature that, if not plucked with pure hands and with special precaution, it would lose all its mysterious virtue before arriving within the limits of the celestial kingdom.

It was suggested that 300 young men and the same number of girls—all of spotless physical health and morality—should be selected to proceed to Japan for the purpose of securing a sufficient supply of the precious plant. The medical adviser also patriotically volunteered to conduct the expedition himself, and the offer was gladly accepted by the emperor.

The expedition embarked as speedily as possible for the Japanese islands, but not one of its members was ever seen within the bounds of the Chinese empire again. The previously unoccupied parts of Japan were rapidly populated with a race more fresh and vigorous in body and mind than the average inhabitants of the land of the "celestials" itself.

The medical chief of the expedition, of course, created himself king of the country, and soon had a magnificent palace erected for his residence, which he called Kanioku, i. e., grand house. It is further said that the Japanese mention the historic fact in their annals; that they point out to visitors the spot on which the medical founder of their empire landed and also show the ruins of a temple which was erected in his honor.

Artificial Gold.

A new metal—harder than steel, as brilliant as gold, from which it cannot be distinguished, and as good a conductor as copper, has been invented by an Italian, says L'Echo des Mines et de la Metallurgie. It is composed of copper, iron, silver, phosphorus, and, of course, radium. It is lighter than copper, and its beautiful color is not changed by any chemical reagent. This is wonderfully interesting if true. Indeed, "we will go further; it is interesting if only half true."—Engineering and Mining Journal.

Hard Times.

First Tramp—Not much doin', pard.

Second Ditto—Nothin' doin' at all. Things is awful. I ain't had a job for six months.

"That's rocky. What's yer lay?" "Me? I peddles Chris'mus trees. What's yourn?"

"I sells sovveneers at presidential inaugurations."—Washington Life.

Considerable Cats.

Marshal Van Worley has gone into a new business, viz., the shipping of cats out of Titusville. He has shipped about 20 to the farm of Eli Walker, at Quay. There were all sorts of cats, large and small, and all shades of color; some with ears and tails and some without.—Titusville (Fla.) East Coast Advocate.

Italy's Working Women.

While Germany has 6,500,000 women who earn their own living, Italy, with only one-half the population, has 5,250,000.

MANY ENGLISH IN MEXICO.

Increasing Use of Language in Southern Republic Makes Conversation Easier.

The increasing use and knowledge of the English language in Mexico must not be considered by foreigners who propose to do business in Mexico as relieving them from a necessity of knowing Spanish. For those who come in direct contact with the masses in any way the native language is still very essential, and will always be.

The amount of English that can be heard by the visitor in the main street of this capital city is apt to be misleading. It is not necessary to journey to the interior of the country to reach a section where English is neither heard nor understood. By walking a few squares either to the right or left, away from the beaten track of the tourist and the foreigner, one readily encounters the Mexico that must be spoken to in Spanish. As has been said many times, it is more important that the man who comes to Mexico should know thoroughly his own business than that he should have a fluent knowledge of Spanish.

Many people who are not intimately acquainted with conditions in the Spanish islands that have recently come under the control of the United States imagine that they will be readily Americanized.

They do not know what a long process is required to change the language and the customs of a race. It will not be done in a generation, nor in many of them. Children born of American parents in Mexico invariably learn to speak Spanish before they do English, and it must naturally follow that local customs are to them more familiar than those of their parents. The new dependencies, and the constantly growing trade relation between the United States and Spanish-speaking countries, make it most desirable that the education of the young men of the United States should include a thorough course in Spanish. Many young men in coming years will find a knowledge of Spanish a valuable asset of their stock in trade.

HIS SOLDIERS MUST SING.

Edict from Kaiser Commands That Defender Must Lift Up Voice in Tuneful Notes.

It is now commanded by Emperor William II. that the German soldier, in addition to his many other duties, shall, while marching, lift up his voice and sing. With surprise and sorrow his majesty has found in going over the old time-honored marches that these had, for the most part, "not suitable texts," and in hot haste two poets of Berlin and Munich respectively have put their heads together and produced a little "hand-book of easily remembered marching songs," with the carolling of which Hans, Hermann and Fritz will in the future beguile their steady tramp, tramp, tramp.

By the way, has not the foreigner sometimes been puzzled as to why a German marching regiment will on occasion suddenly and with one accord start stamping? The "stamp" of all the rank and file follows on a sharply given order to "salute" some passing officer, and the "salute" when on the march is given with the feet!

Controlling the Elements.

According to the Peking (China) Times, the viceroy of Kwangtung province "has taken in hand the control of the elements." There having been a long spell of cloudy weather, the viceroy started in to set the matter right. "For several days by his order the various forts have been firing salutes in order to break up the darkness of the heavens and cause the sun to shine. Day and night there has been a long cannonading. This morning (March 25) when the clouds grew thin and the sun almost shone the Chinese began to say that the viceroy's attempts were accomplishing something."

Time to Speak Up.

When a girl tells a young man that the best is none too good for her it is up to him to offer himself.—Chicago Sun.